SONIC™ THE HEDGEHOG ARCHIVES VOLUME 23

featuring the talents of

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SPECIAL THANKS TO ANTHONY GACCIONE @ SEGA LICENSING

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Monkey Khan was one of Dr. Eggman's earliest creations. Now he wants his most powerful pet project back! Khan's haunted past and tortured future collide in a battle for his very soul!

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"BEST OF TIMES, WORST OF TIMES"...Page 75

Knuckles is enjoying the time of his life – weddings, friends, and his family united. But all of this comes crashing down as the Dingo Regime sparks a rebellion, and the Dark Legion makes a move that will reshape the entire Angel Island!

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THE HEDGEHOG
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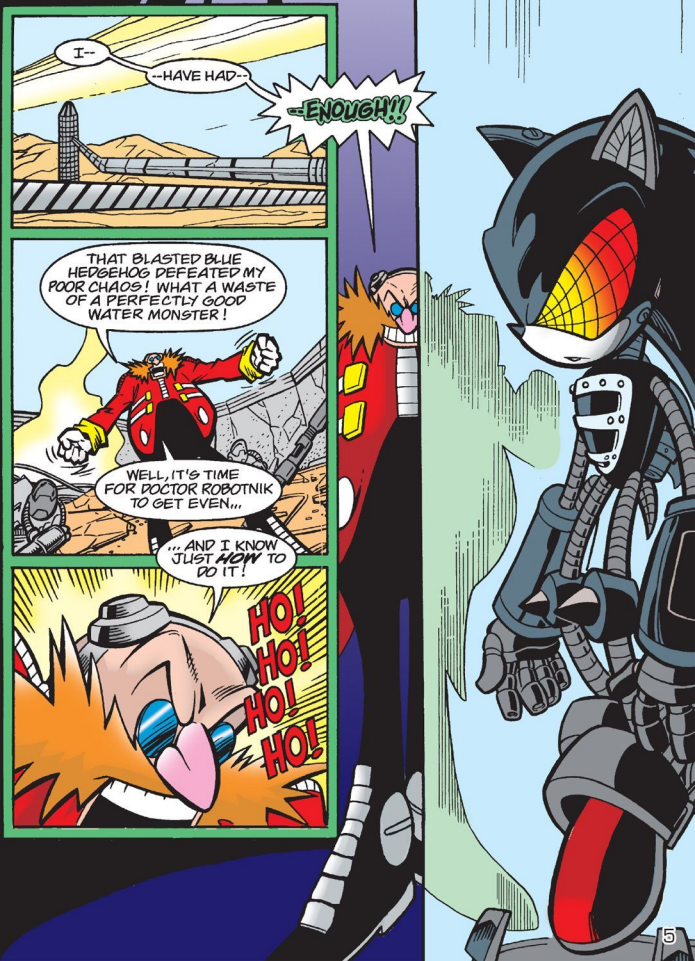
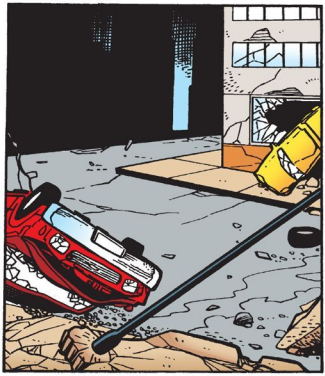
After ten long years, the iron-fisted rule of DOCTOR ROBOTNIK over planet MOBIUS was believed to have finally ended! With the technological tyrant vanquished and his polluted factories shut down, order and beauty were restored to the city of MOBOTROPOLIS. Now the villain has returned to wreak havoc once more, but there are many who are willing to stand against him in the fight for freedom. The bravest among them is a brash, blue streak who just happens to be the fastest thing alive! ARCHIE COMICS AND SEGA PRESENT... SONIC THE HEDGEHOG!


I--
--HAVE HAD--
--ENOUGH!!
THAT BLASTED BLUE HEDGEHOG DEFEATED MY POOR CHAOS! WHAT A WASTE OF A PERFECTLY GOOD WATER MONSTER!
WELL, IT'S TIME FOR DOCTOR ROBOTNIK TO GET EVEN...
...AND I KNOW JUST HOW TO DO IT!
HO! HO! HO! HO!



THE BIG PAYBACK

Chapter One

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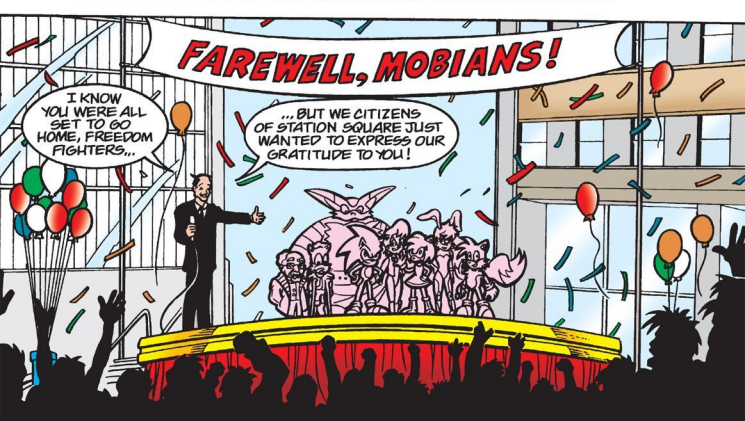
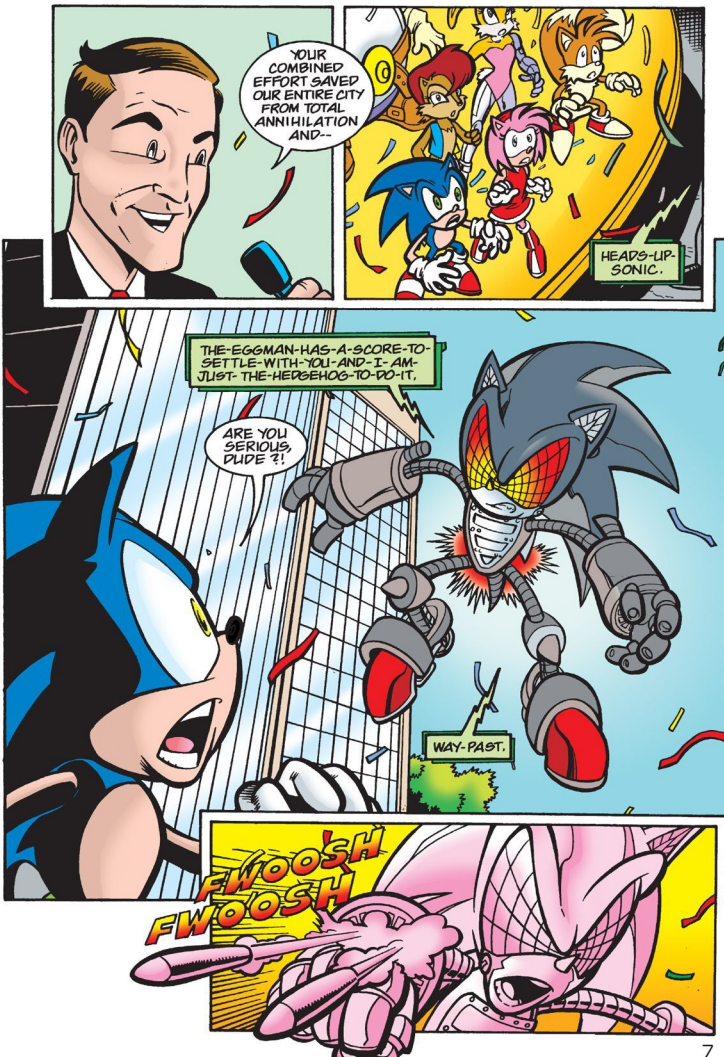
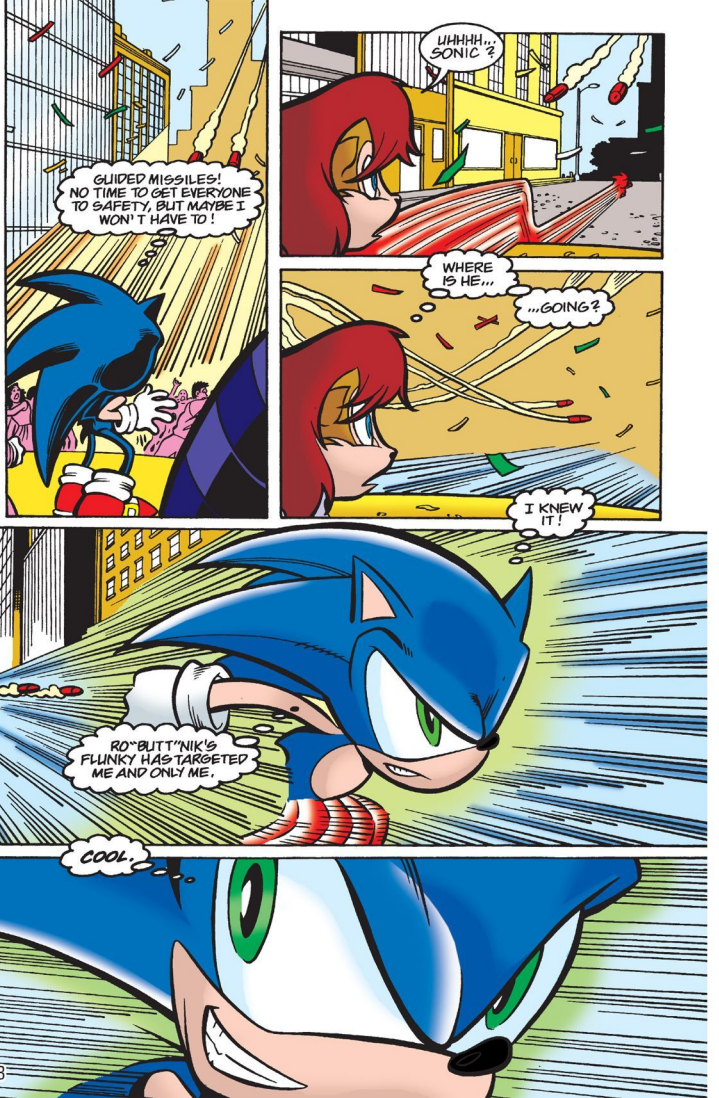
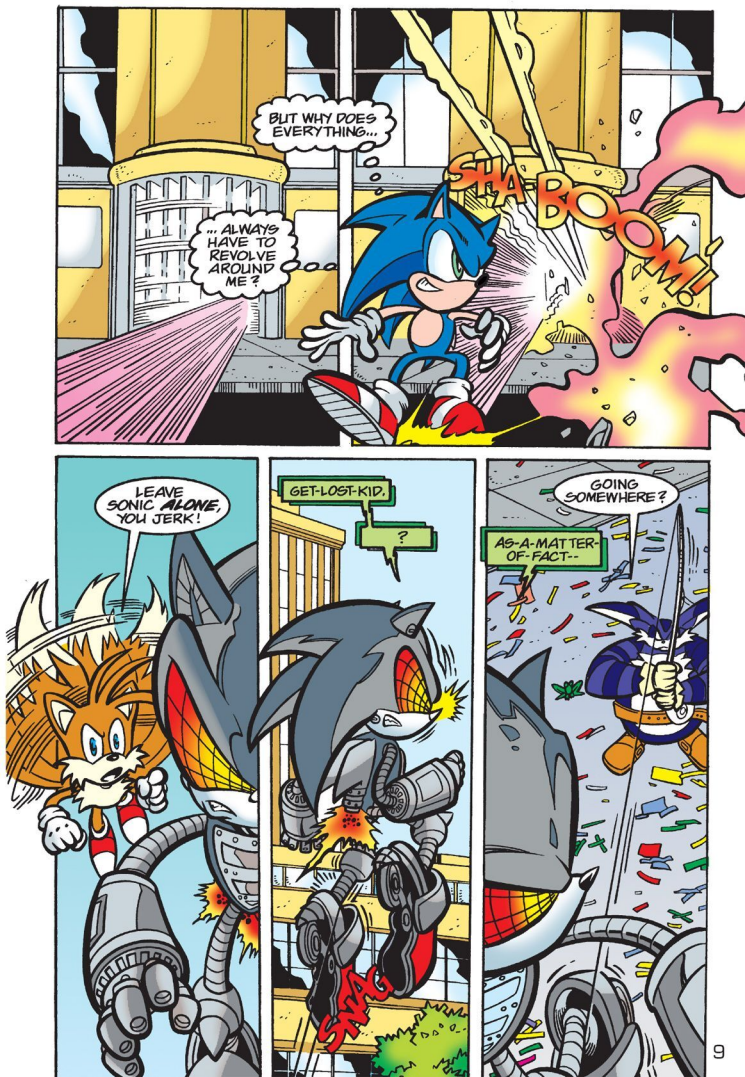
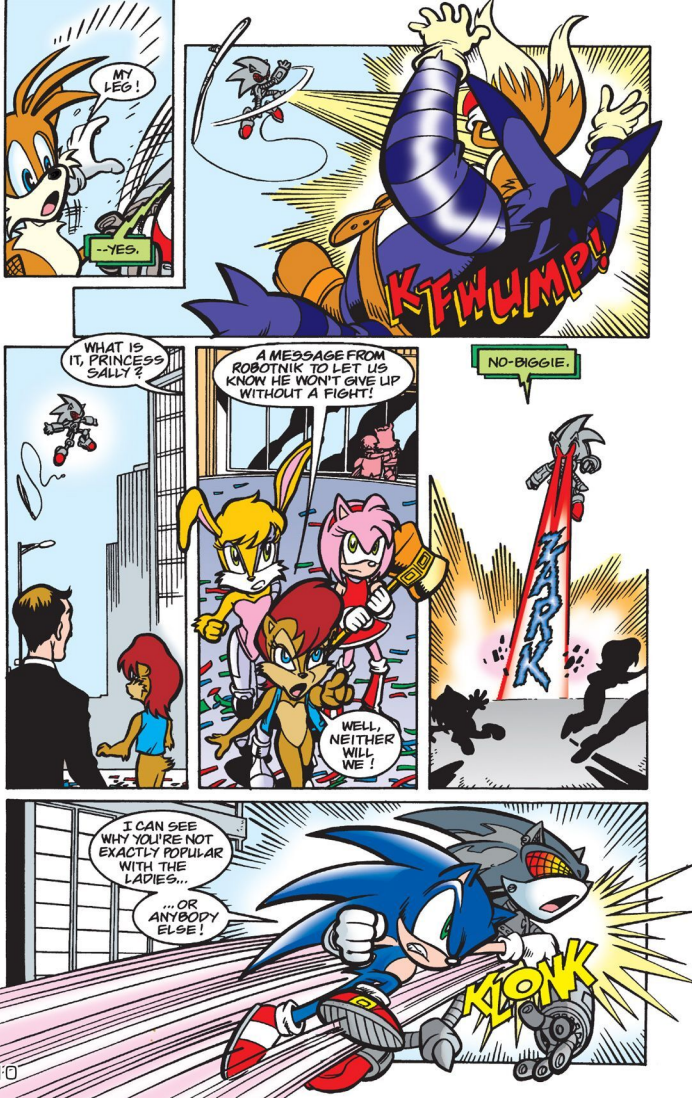
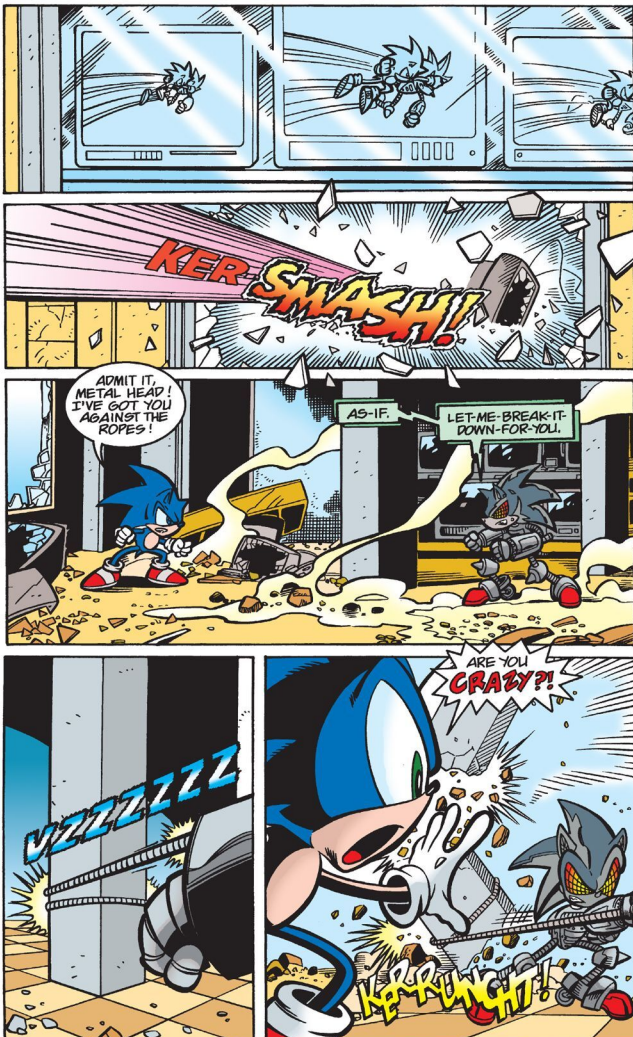

FAREWELL, MOBIANS!
I KNOW YOU WERE ALL SET TO GO HOME, FREEDOM FIGHTERS...
...BUT WE CITIZENS OF STATION SQUARE JUST WANTED TO EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE TO YOU!

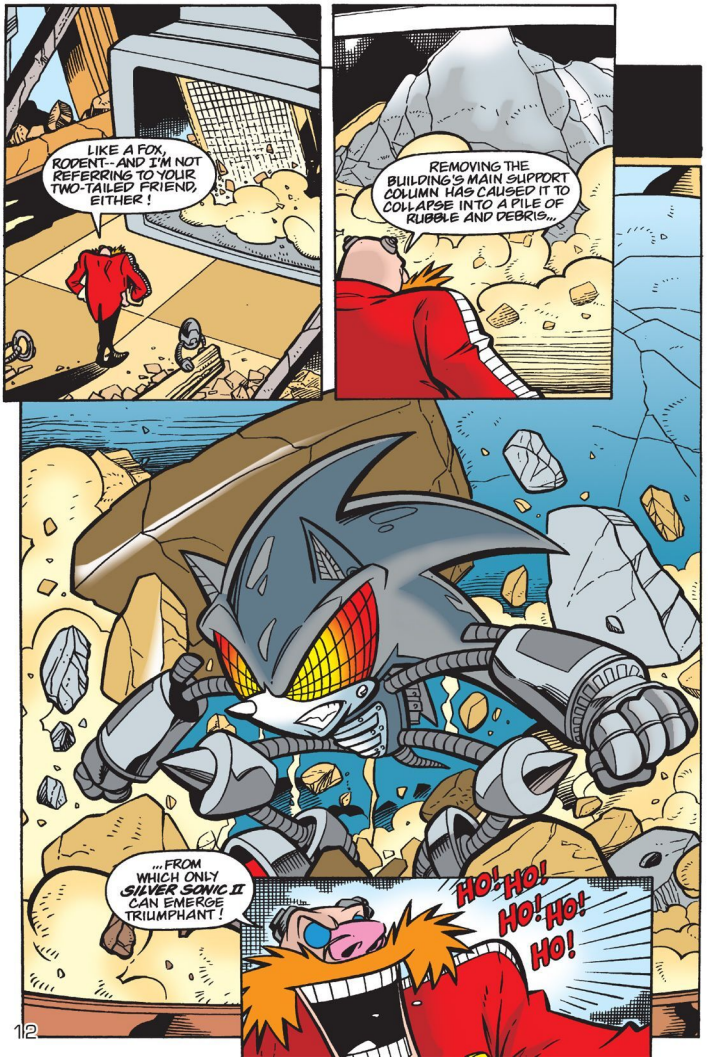

YOUR COMBINED EFFORT SAVED OUR ENTIRE CITY FROM TOTAL ANNIHILATION AND--
HEADS-UP, SONIC.
THE-EGGMAN-HAS-A-SCORE-TO-SETTLE-WITH-YOU-AND-I-AM-JUST-THE-HEDGEHOG-TO-DO-IT.
ARE YOU SERIOUS, DUDE ?!
WAY-PAST.
FWOOSH
FWOOSH

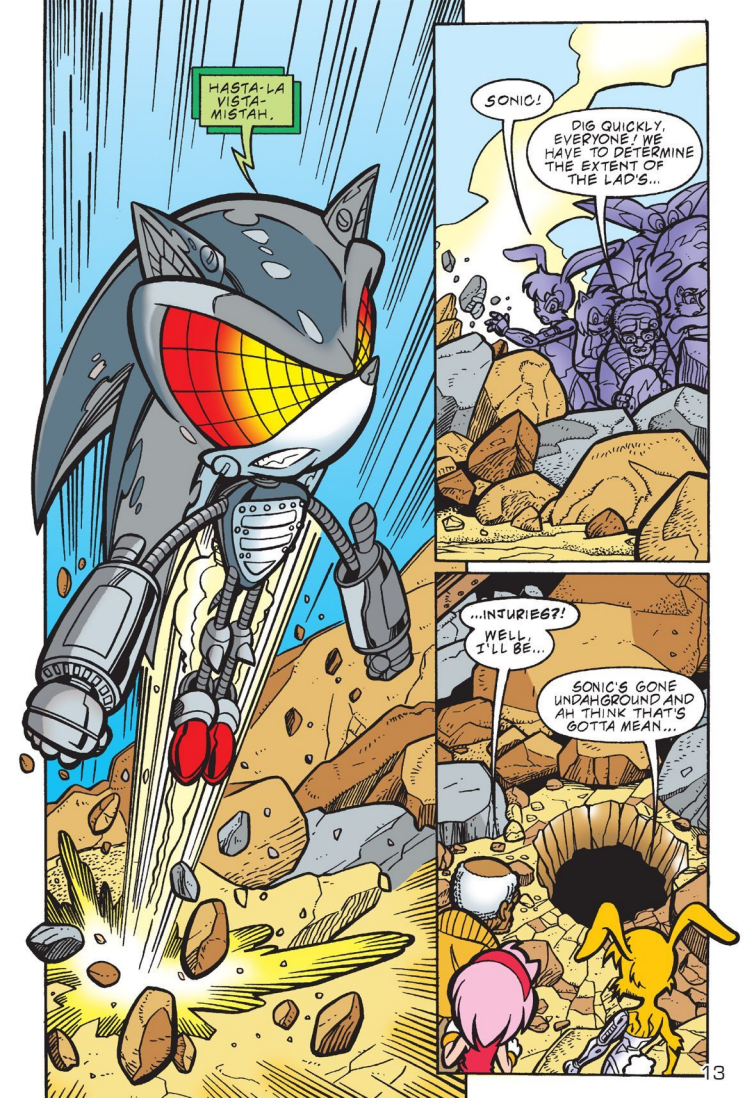

GUIDED MISSILES! NO TIME TO GET EVERYONE TO SAFETY, BUT MAYBE I WON'T HAVE TO!
UHHHH... SONIC?
WHERE IS HE...
...GOING?
I KNEW IT!
RO-BUTT-NIK'S FLUNKY HAS TARGETED ME AND ONLY ME.
COOL.

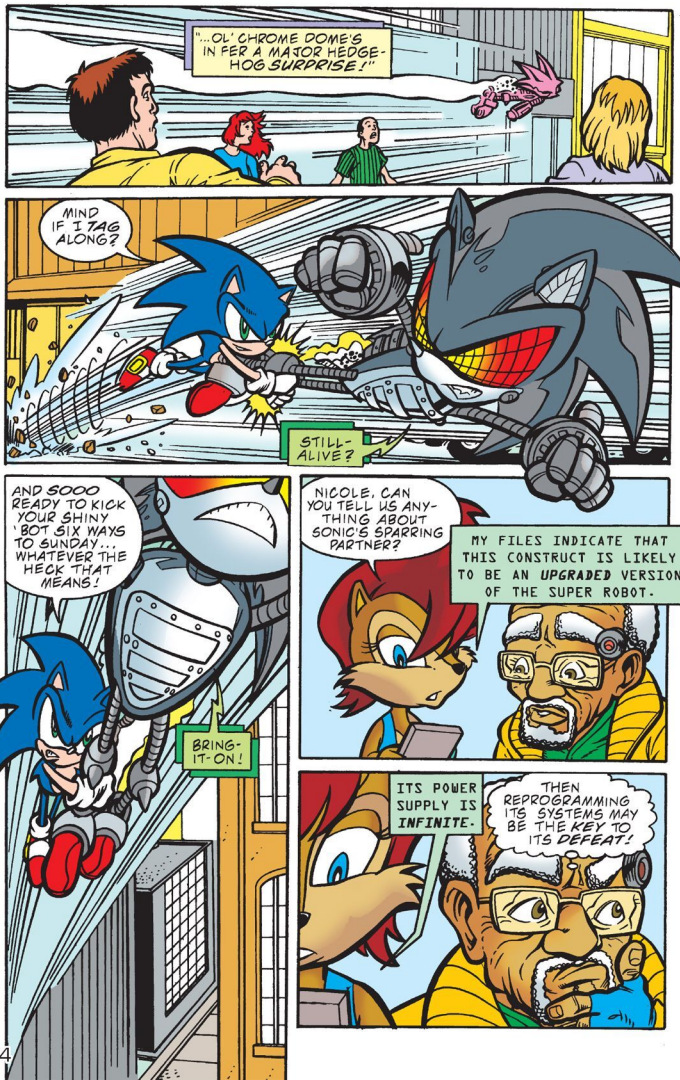

BUT WHY DOES EVERYTHING...
... ALWAYS HAVE TO REVOLVE AROUND ME?
SHA-BOOM!
LEAVE SONIC ALONE, YOU JERK!
GET-LOST-KID.
?
SNAG
GOING SOMEWHERE?
AS-A-MATTER-OF-FACT--

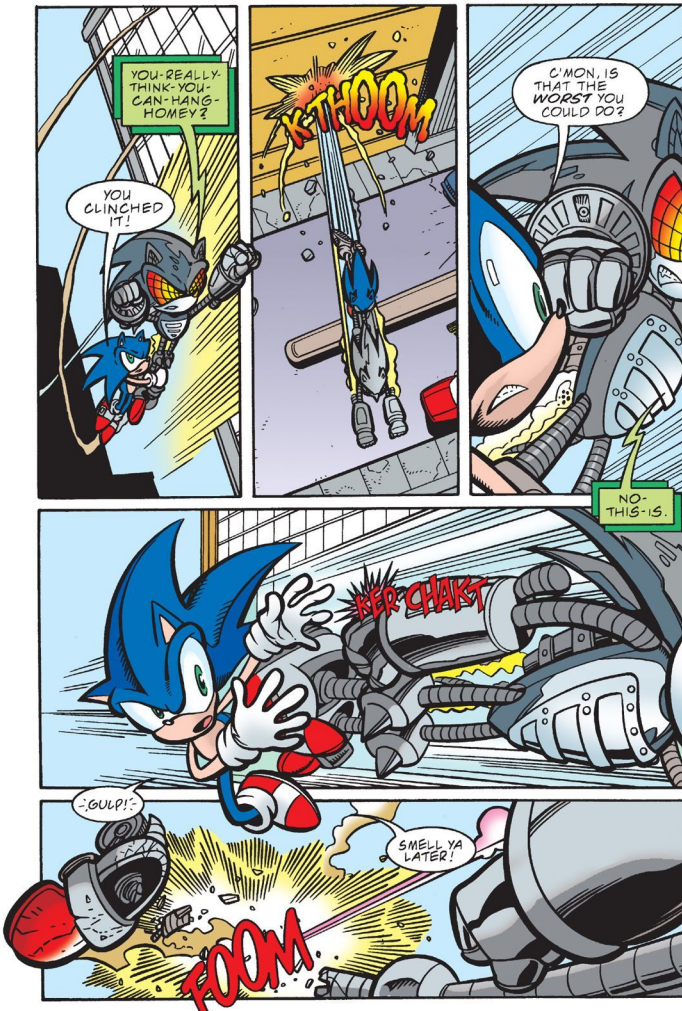

MY LEG!
--YES.
KFWUMP!
WHAT IS IT, PRINCESS SALLY?
A MESSAGE FROM ROBOTNIK TO LET US KNOW HE WON'T GIVE UP WITHOUT A FIGHT!
WELL, NEITHER WILL WE!
NO-BIGGIE.
KARK
I CAN SEE WHY YOU'RE NOT EXACTLY POPULAR WITH THE LADIES...
...OR ANYBODY ELSE!
KLONK

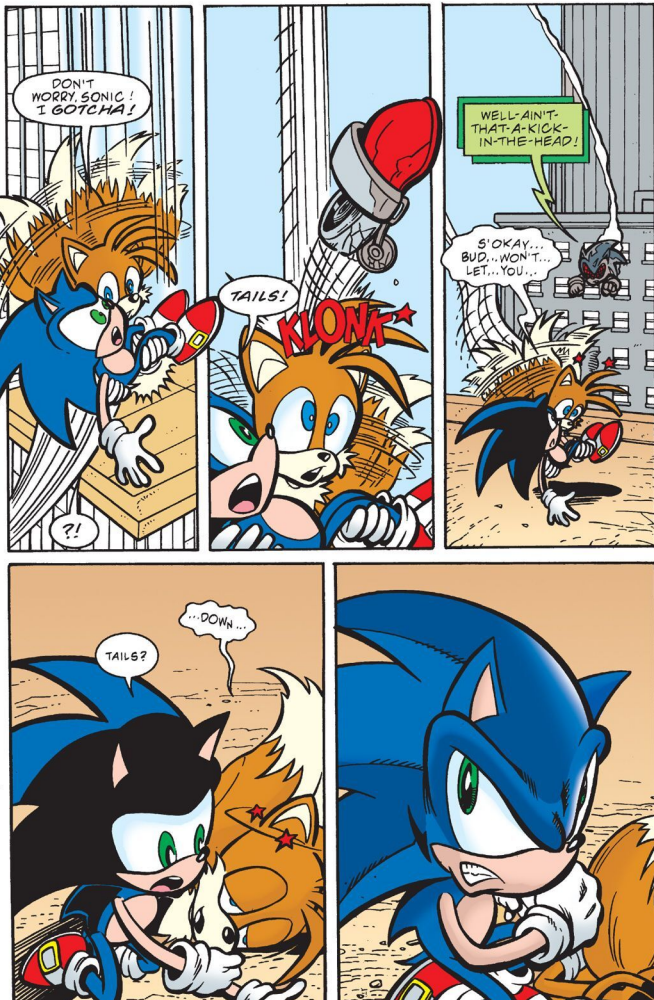

KER-SMASH!!
ADMIT IT, METAL HEAD! I'VE GOT YOU AGAINST THE ROPES!
AS-IF.
LET-ME-BREAK-IT-DOWN-FOR-YOU.
VZZZZZZZ
ARE YOU CRAZY?!
KA-RUNCH!!

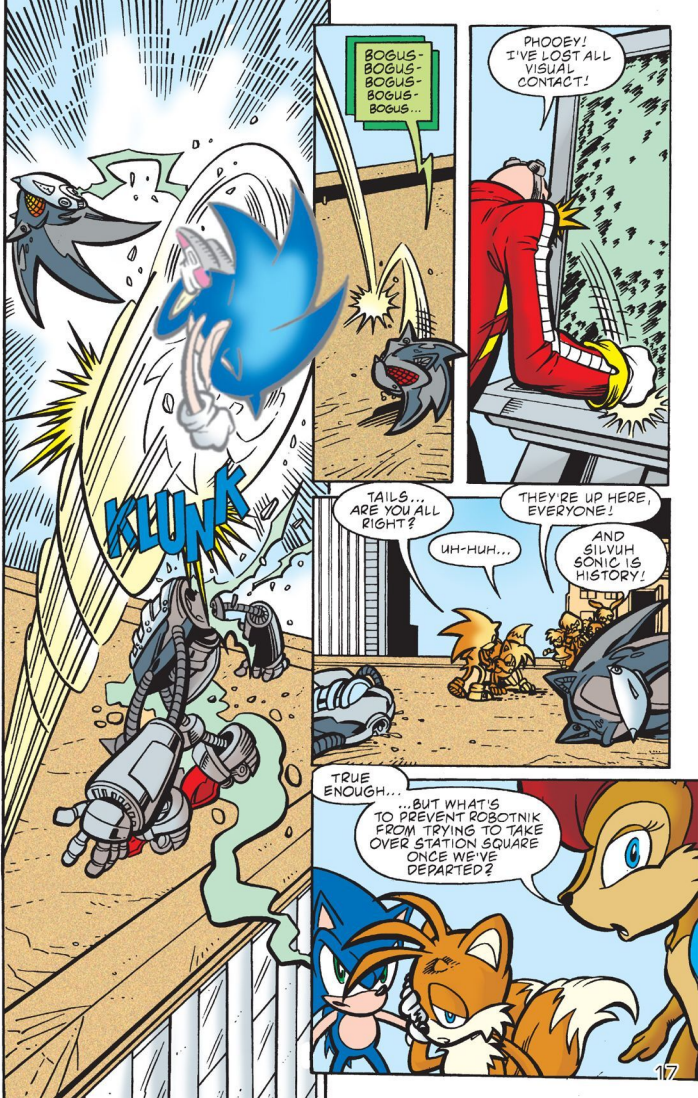

LIKE A FOX, RODENT--AND I'M NOT REFERRING TO YOUR TWO-TAILED FRIEND, EITHER!
REMOVING THE BUILDING'S MAIN SUPPORT COLUMN HAS CAUSED IT TO COLLAPSE INTO A PILE OF RUBBLE AND DEBRIS...
...FROM WHICH ONLY SILVER SONIC II CAN EMERGE TRIUMPHANT!
HO! HO! HO! HO! HO!

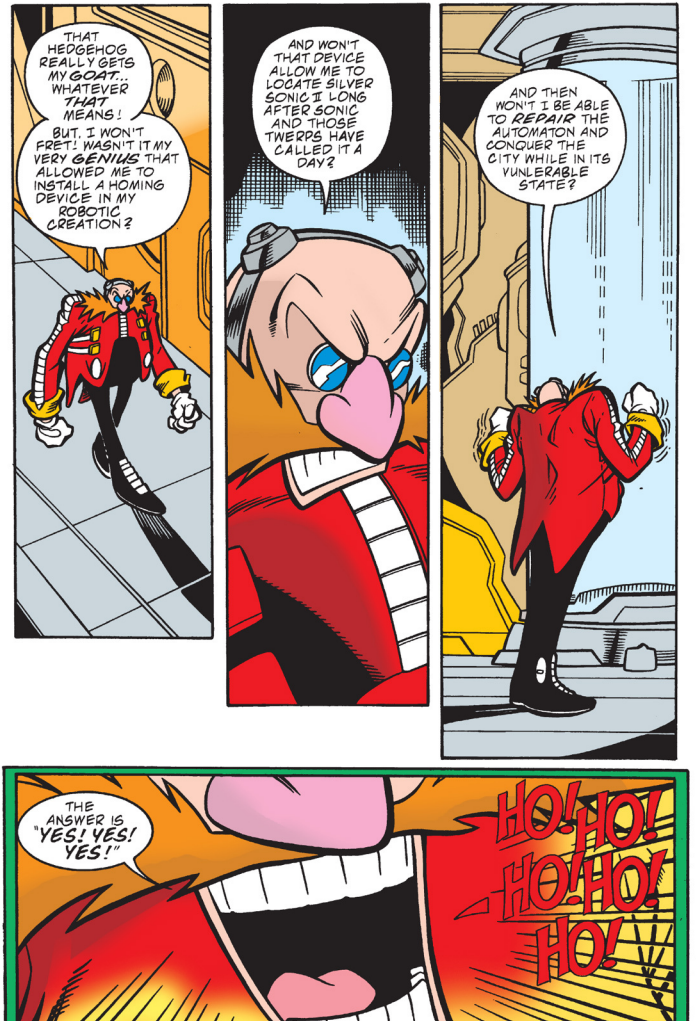

HASTA-LA VISTA-MISTAH.
SONIC!
DIG QUICKLY, EVERYONE! WE HAVE TO DETERMINE THE EXTENT OF THE LAD'S...
...INJURIES?!
WELL, I'LL BE...
SONIC'S GONE UNDAHGROUND AND AH THINK THAT'S GOTTA MEAN...

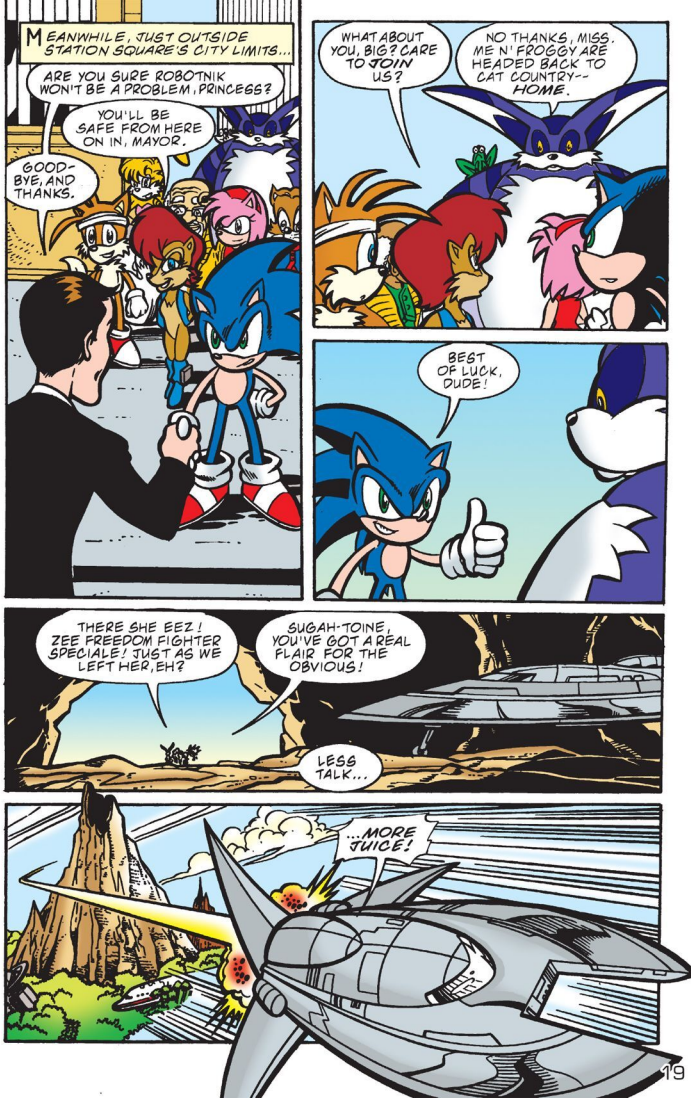

"...OL' CHROME DOME'S IN FER A MAJOR HEDGE-HOG SURPRISE!"
MIND IF I TAG ALONG?
STILL-ALIVE?
AND SOOO READY TO KICK YOUR SHINY 'BOT SIX WAYS TO SUNDAY... WHATEVER THE HECK THAT MEANS!
BRING-IT-ON!
NICOLE, CAN YOU TELL US ANY-THING ABOUT SONIC'S SPARRING PARTNER?
MY FILES INDICATE THAT THIS CONSTRUCT IS LIKELY TO BE AN UPGRADED VERSION OF THE SUPER ROBOT.
ITS POWER SUPPLY IS INFINITE.
THEN REPROGRAMMING ITS SYSTEMS MAY BE THE KEY TO ITS DEFEAT!

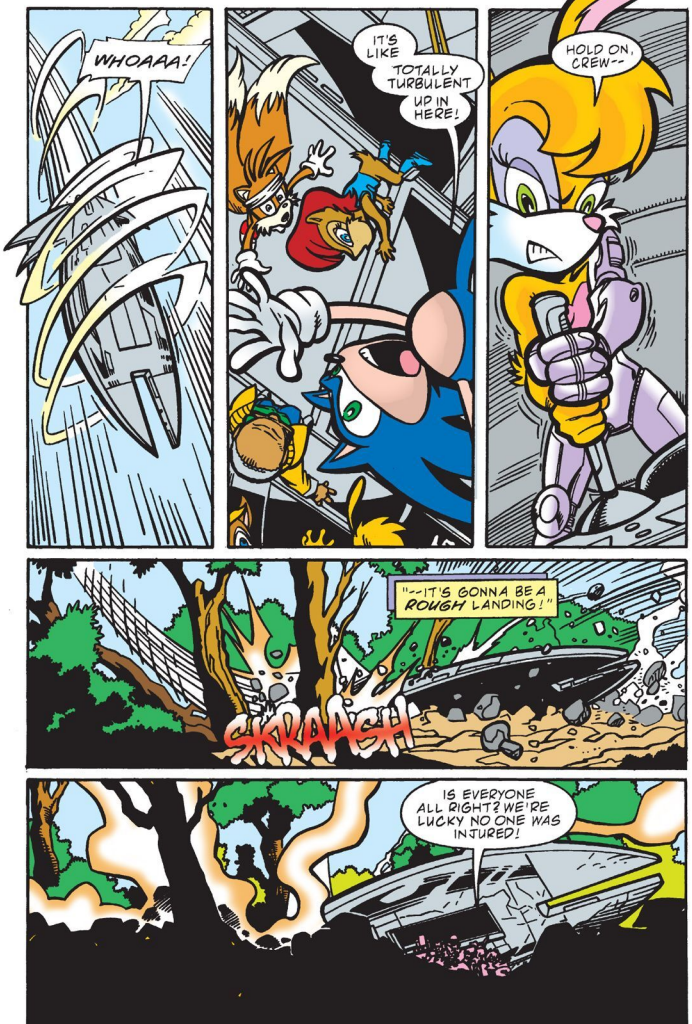

YOU-REALLY-THINK-YOU-CAN-HANG-HOMEY?
YOU CLINCHED IT!
K-THOOM
C'MON, IS THAT THE WORST YOU COULD DO?
NO-THIS-IS.
KER-CHAKT
:GULP!:
SMELL YA LATER!
FOOM

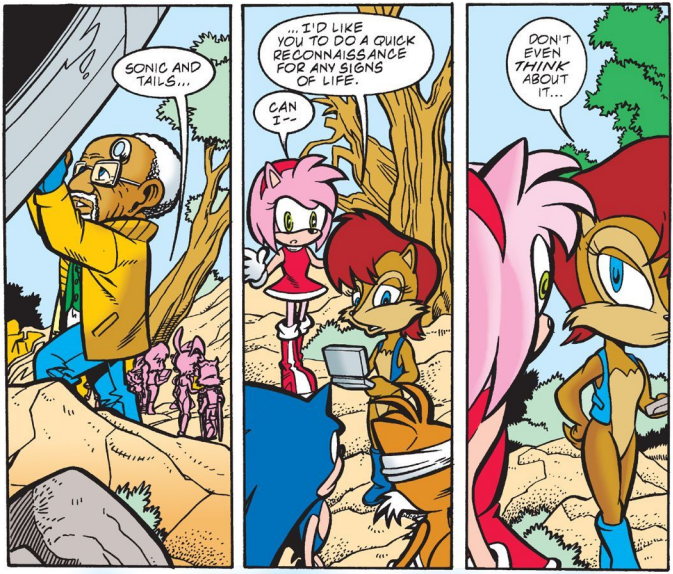

DON'T WORRY, SONIC! I GOTCHA!
?!
TAILS!
KLONK
WELL-AIN'T-THAT-A-KICK-IN-THE-HEAD!
S'OKAY... BUD... WON'T... LET... YOU...
TAILS?
...DOWN...

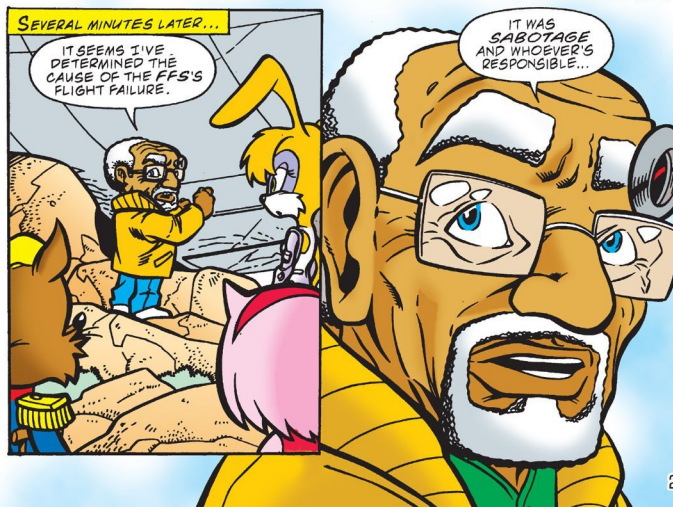

KLUNK
BOGUS-BOGUS-BOGUS-BOGUS-BOGUS...
PHOOEY! I'VE LOST ALL VISUAL CONTACT!
TAILS... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
UH-HUH...
THEY'RE UP HERE, EVERYONE!
AND SILVUH SONIC IS HISTORY!
TRUE ENOUGH...
...BUT WHAT'S TO PREVENT ROBOTNIK FROM TRYING TO TAKE OVER STATION SQUARE ONCE WE'VE DEPARTED?

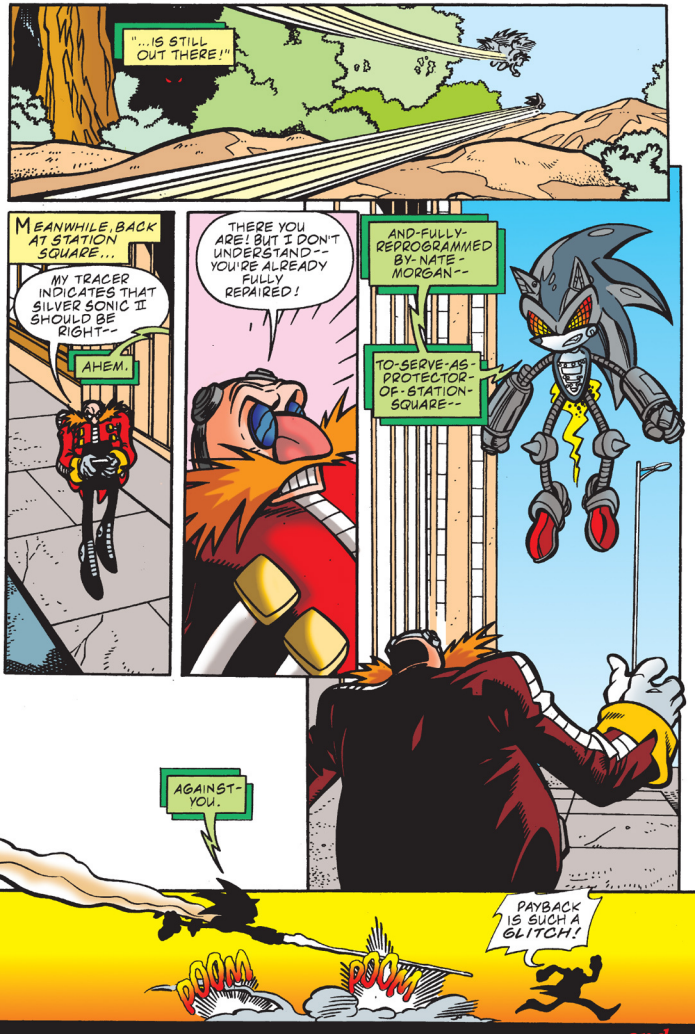

THAT HEDGEHOG REALLY GETS MY GOAT... WHATEVER THAT MEANS!
BUT, I WON'T FRET! WASN'T IT MY VERY GENIUS THAT ALLOWED ME TO INSTALL A HOMING DEVICE IN MY ROBOTIC CREATION?
AND WON'T THAT DEVICE ALLOW ME TO LOCATE SILVER SONIC II LONG AFTER SONIC AND THOSE TWERPS HAVE CALLED IT A DAY?
AND THEN WON'T I BE ABLE TO REPAIR THE AUTOMATON AND CONQUER THE CITY WHILE IN ITS VULNERABLE STATE?
THE ANSWER IS "YES! YES! YES!"
HO! HO! HO! HO! HO!

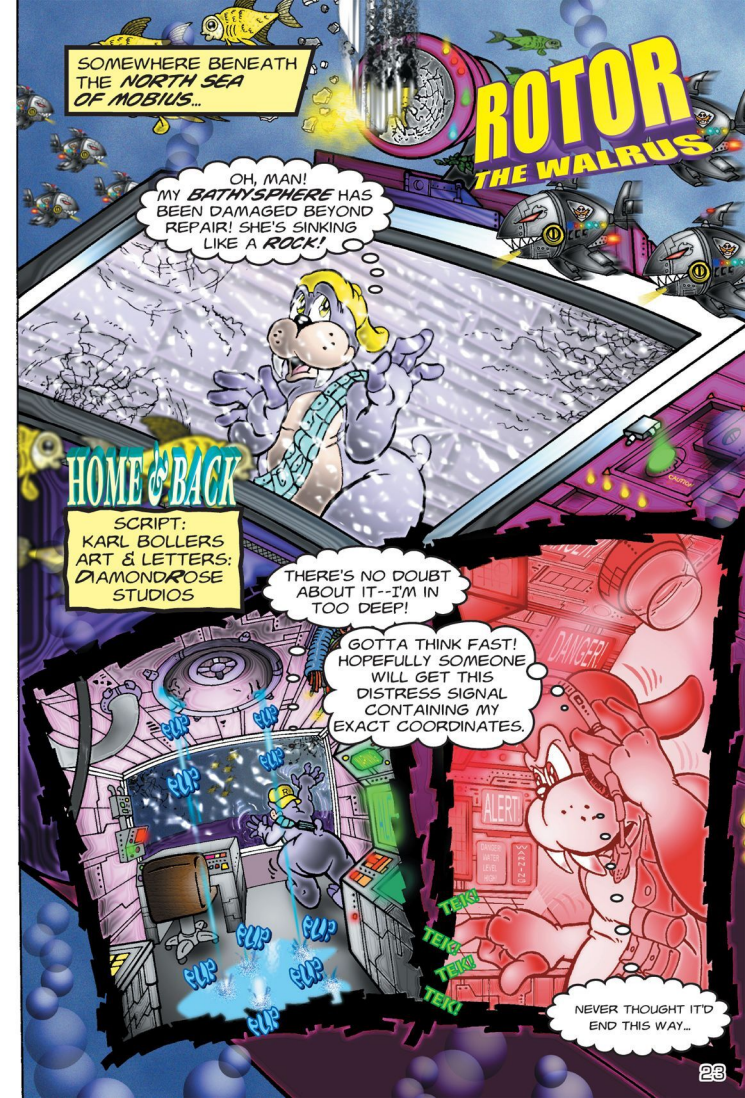

MEANWHILE, JUST OUTSIDE STATION SQUARE'S CITY LIMITS...
ARE YOU SURE ROBOTNIK WON'T BE A PROBLEM, PRINCESS?
YOU'LL BE SAFE FROM HERE ON IN, MAYOR.
GOOD-BYE, AND THANKS.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, BIG? CARE TO JOIN US?
NO THANKS, MISS. ME N' FROGGY ARE HEADED BACK TO CAT COUNTRY-- HOME.
BEST OF LUCK, DUDE!
THERE SHE EEZ! ZEE FREEDOM FIGHTER SPECIALE! JUST AS WE LEFT HER, EH?
SUGAH-TOINE, YOU'VE GOT A REAL FLAIR FOR THE OBVIOUS!
LESS TALK...
...MORE JUICE!

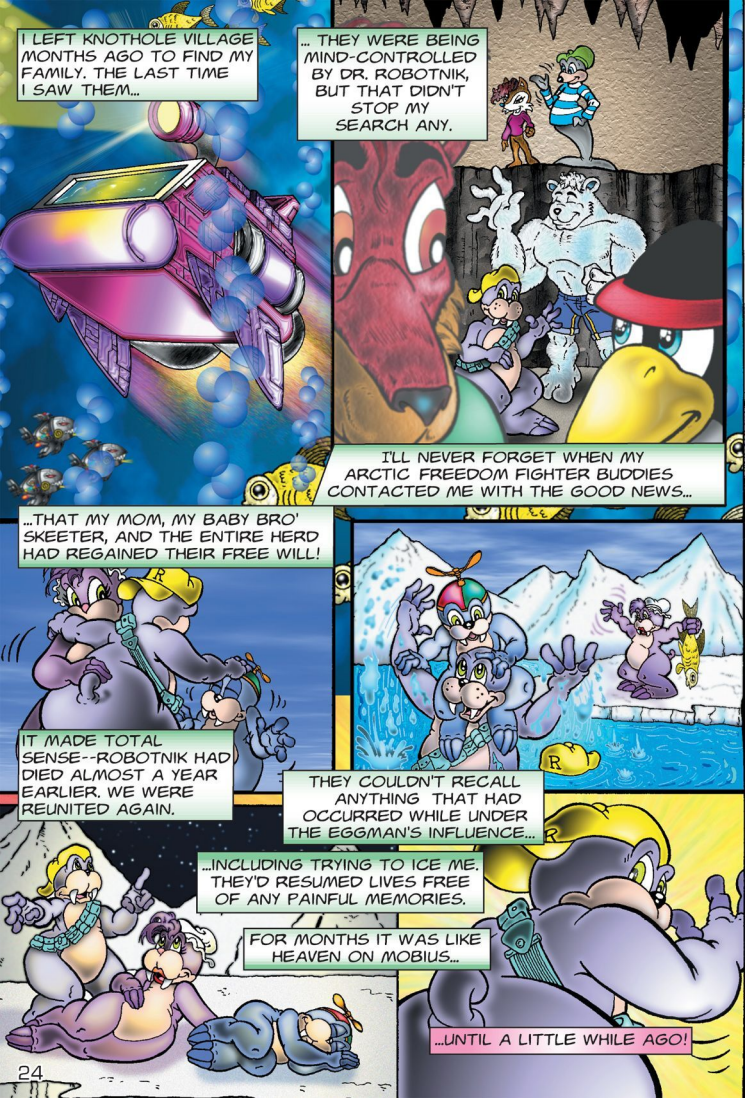

WHOAAA!
IT'S LIKE TOTALLY TURBULENT UP IN HERE!
HOLD ON, CREW--
"--IT'S GONNA BE A ROUGH LANDING!"
SKRAASH
IS EVERYONE ALL RIGHT? WE'RE LUCKY NO ONE WAS INJURED!

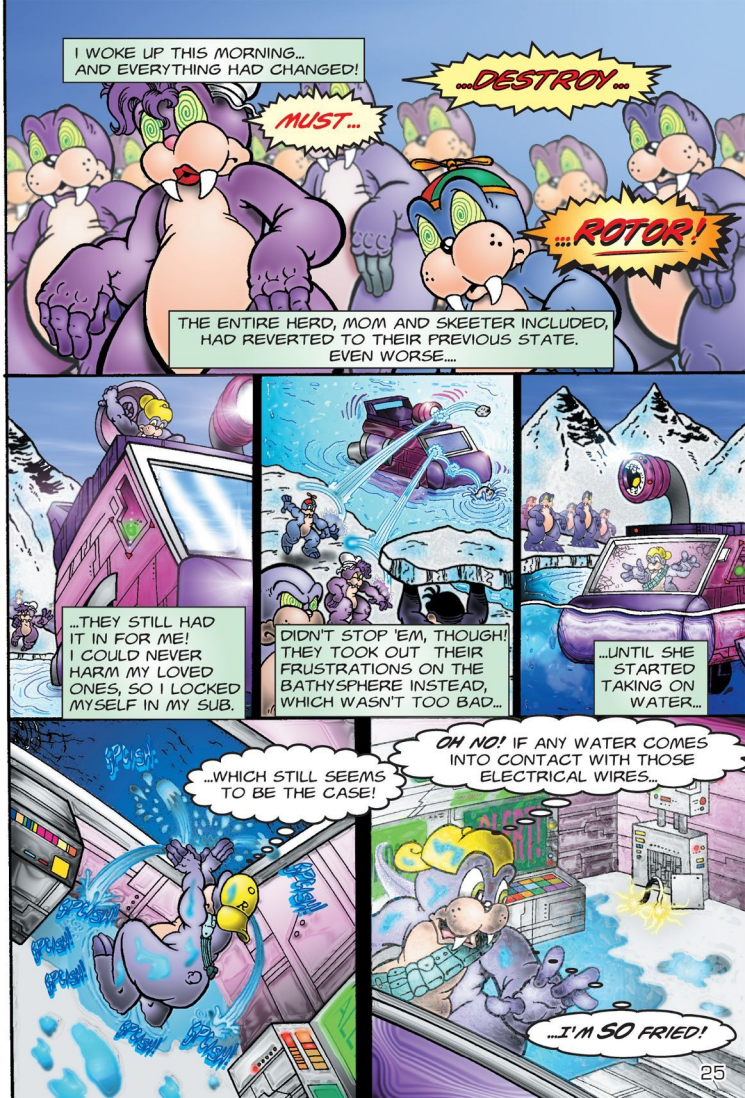

SONIC AND TAILS...
...I'D LIKE YOU TO DO A QUICK RECONNAISSANCE FOR ANY SIGNS OF LIFE.
CAN I--
DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT...

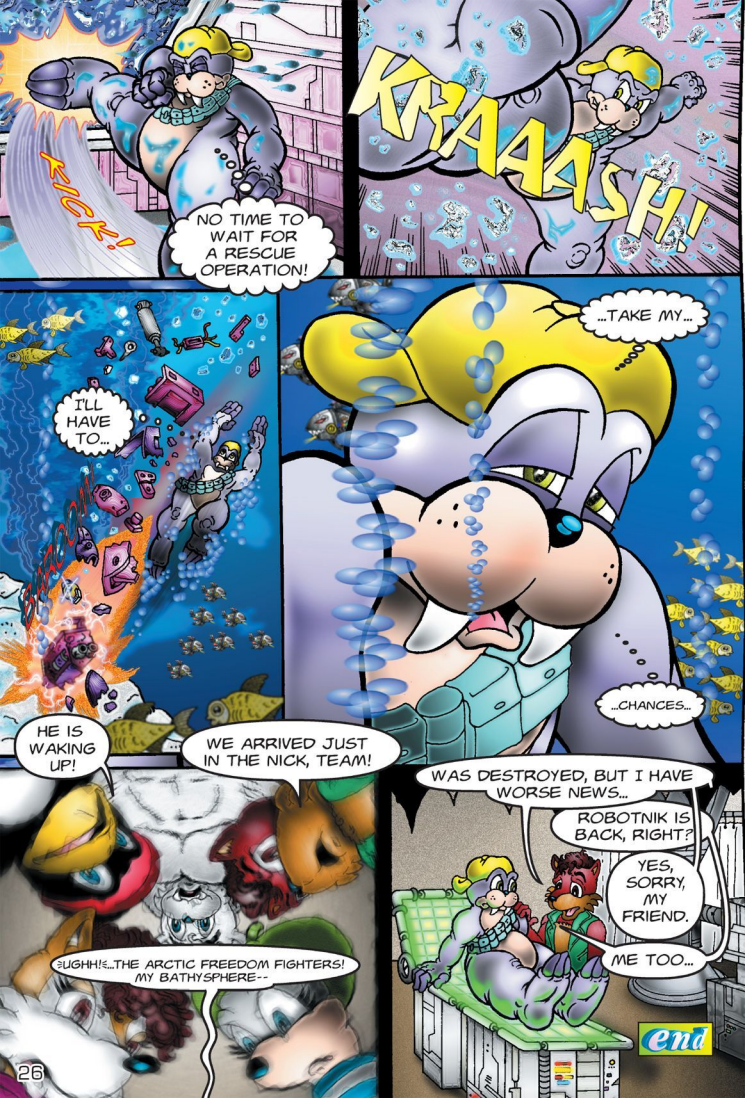

SEVERAL MINUTES LATER...
IT SEEMS I'VE DETERMINED THE CAUSE OF THE FFS'S FLIGHT FAILURE.
IT WAS SABOTAGE AND WHOEVER'S RESPONSIBLE...


"...IS STILL OUT THERE!"
MEANWHILE, BACK AT STATION SQUARE...
MY TRACER INDICATES THAT SILVER SONIC II SHOULD BE RIGHT--
AHEM.
THERE YOU ARE! BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND-- YOU'RE ALREADY FULLY REPAIRED!
AND-FULLY-REPROGRAMMED BY-NATE-MORGAN--
TO-SERVE-AS-PROTECTOR-OF-STATION-SQUARE--
AGAINST-YOU.
PAYBACK IS SUCH A GLITCH!
POOM
POOM
end


SOMEWHERE BENEATH THE NORTH SEA OF MOBIUS...
ROTOR
THE WALRUS
OH, MAN! MY BATHYSPHERE HAS BEEN DAMAGED BEYOND REPAIR! SHE'S SINKING LIKE A ROCK!
HOME & BACK
SCRIPT: KARL BOLLERS
ART & LETTERS: DIAMONDROSE STUDIOS
THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT--I'M IN TOO DEEP!
GOTTA THINK FAST! HOPEFULLY SOMEONE WILL GET THIS DISTRESS SIGNAL CONTAINING MY EXACT COORDINATES.
GLUP
DANGER!
ALERT
TEK!
NEVER THOUGHT IT'D END THIS WAY...

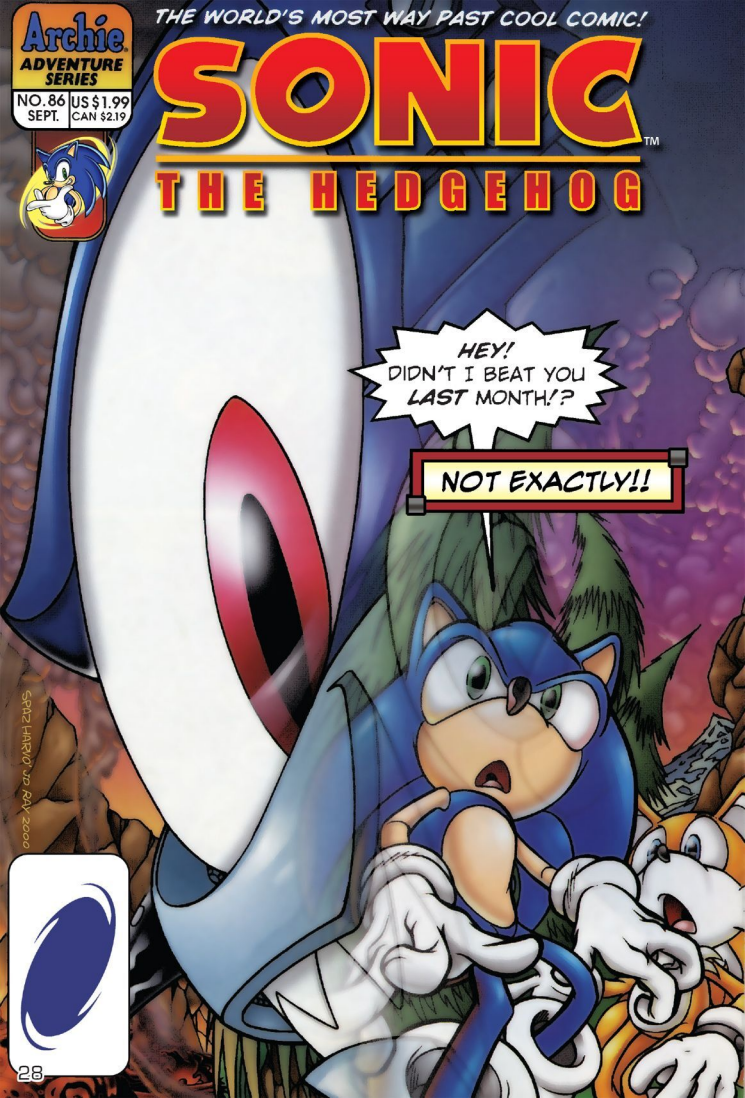

I LEFT KNOTHOLE VILLAGE MONTHS AGO TO FIND MY FAMILY. THE LAST TIME I SAW THEM...
... THEY WERE BEING MIND-CONTROLLED BY DR. ROBOTNIK, BUT THAT DIDN'T STOP MY SEARCH ANY.
I'LL NEVER FORGET WHEN MY ARCTIC FREEDOM FIGHTER BUDDIES CONTACTED ME WITH THE GOOD NEWS...
...THAT MY MOM, MY BABY BRO' SKEETER, AND THE ENTIRE HERD HAD REGAINED THEIR FREE WILL!
IT MADE TOTAL SENSE--ROBOTNIK HAD DIED ALMOST A YEAR EARLIER. WE WERE REUNITED AGAIN.
THEY COULDN'T RECALL ANYTHING THAT HAD OCCURRED WHILE UNDER THE EGGMAN'S INFLUENCE...
...INCLUDING TRYING TO ICE ME. THEY'D RESUMED LIVES FREE OF ANY PAINFUL MEMORIES.
FOR MONTHS IT WAS LIKE HEAVEN ON MOBIUS...
...UNTIL A LITTLE WHILE AGO!


I WOKE UP THIS MORNING... AND EVERYTHING HAD CHANGED!
...DESTROY...
MUST...
...ROTOR!
THE ENTIRE HERD, MOM AND SKEETER INCLUDED, HAD REVERTED TO THEIR PREVIOUS STATE. EVEN WORSE....
...THEY STILL HAD IT IN FOR ME! I COULD NEVER HARM MY LOVED ONES, SO I LOCKED MYSELF IN MY SUB.
DIDN'T STOP 'EM, THOUGH! THEY TOOK OUT THEIR FRUSTRATIONS ON THE BATHYSPHERE INSTEAD, WHICH WASN'T TOO BAD...
...UNTIL SHE STARTED TAKING ON WATER...
...WHICH STILL SEEMS TO BE THE CASE!
OH NO! IF ANY WATER COMES INTO CONTACT WITH THOSE ELECTRICAL WIRES...
...I'M SO FRIED!


KICK!
NO TIME TO WAIT FOR A RESCUE OPERATION!
KRAAASH!
I'LL HAVE TO...
...TAKE MY...
...CHANCES...
HE IS WAKING UP!
WE ARRIVED JUST IN THE NICK, TEAM!
WAS DESTROYED, BUT I HAVE WORSE NEWS...
ROBOTNIK IS BACK, RIGHT?
YES, SORRY, MY FRIEND.
ME TOO...
SUGHH!...THE ARCTIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS! MY BATHYSPHERE--
end

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #86

PIN UP ART BY PATRICK SPAZIANTE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HEY! DIDN'T I BEAT YOU LAST MONTH!?
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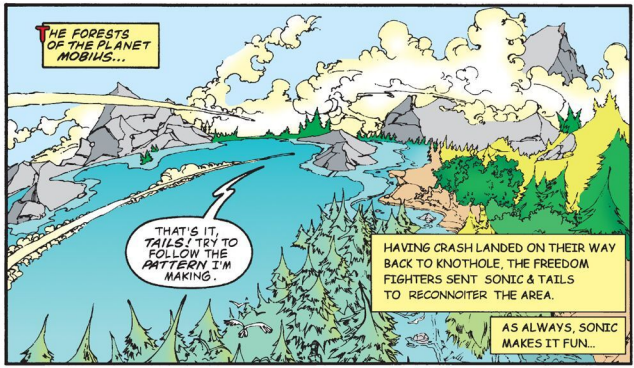
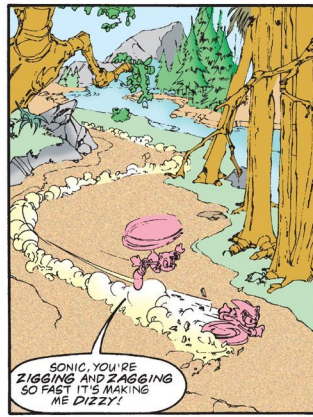
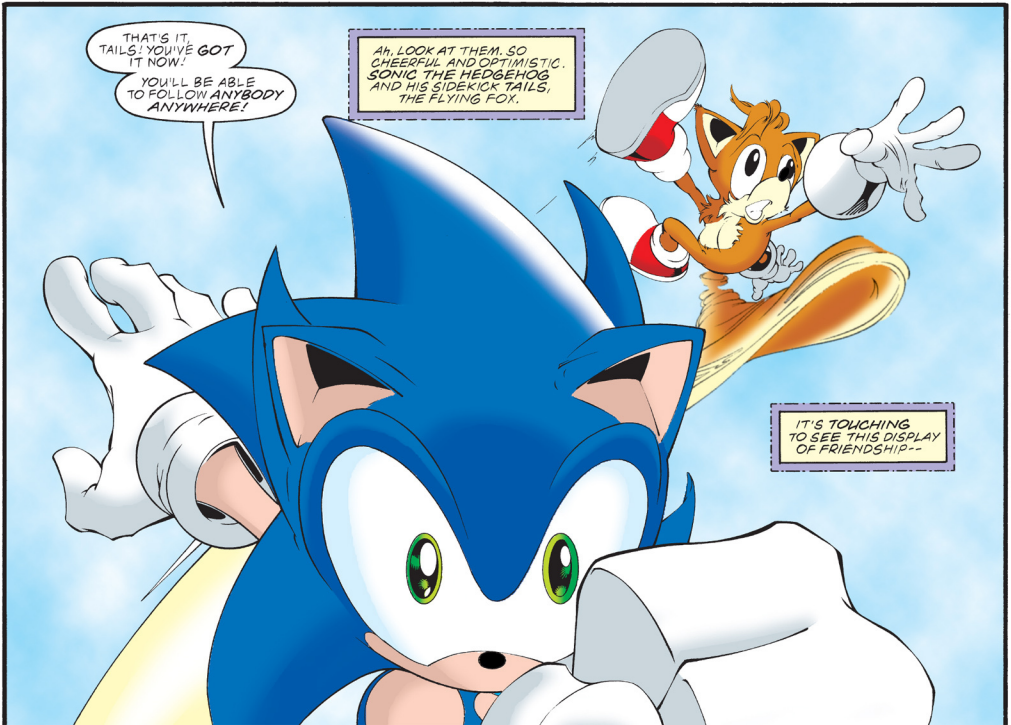
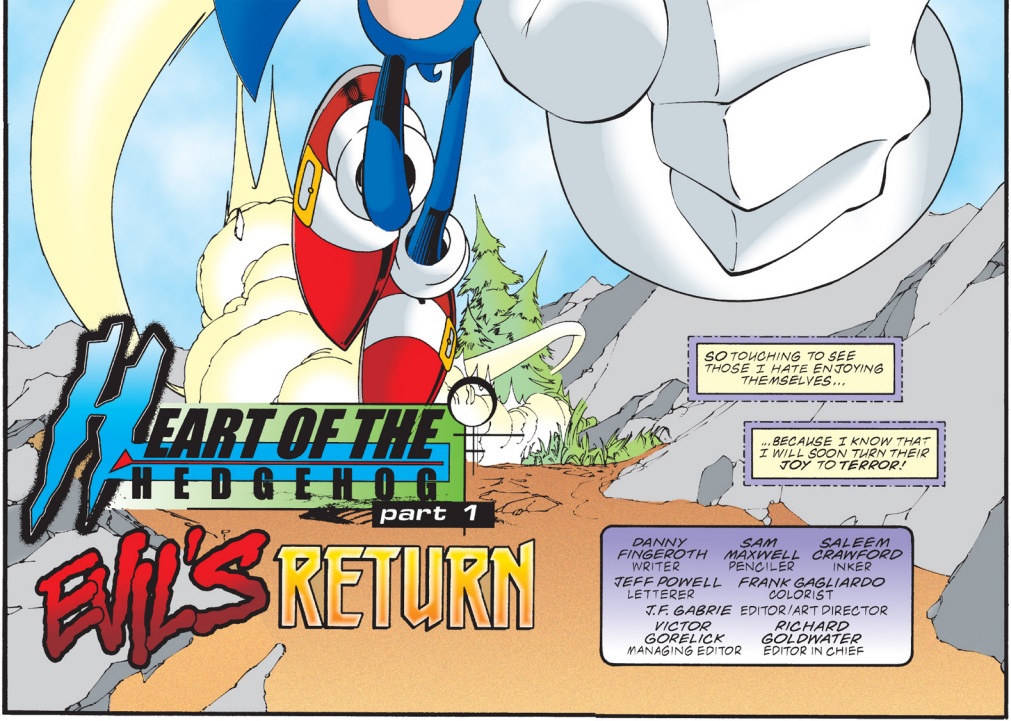
SPAZ HARRIOTT RAY 2000
28

After ten long years, the iron-fisted rule of DOCTOR ROBOTNIK over planet MOBIUS was believed to have finally ended! With the technological tyrant vanquished and his polluted factories shut down, order and beauty were restored to the city of MOBOTROPOLIS. Now the villain has returned to wreak havoc once more, but there are many who are willing to stand against him in the fight for freedom. The bravest among them is a brash, blue streak who just happens to be the fastest thing alive! ARCHIE COMICS AND SEGA PRESENT... SONIC THE HEDGEHOG!

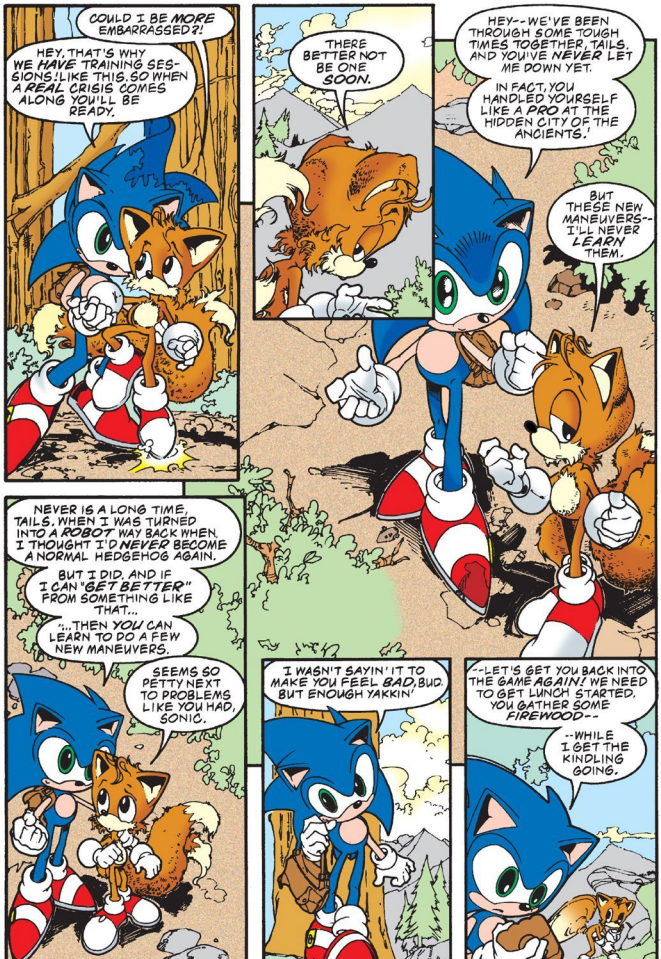

THE FORESTS OF THE PLANET MOBIUS...
THAT'S IT, TAILS! TRY TO FOLLOW THE PATTERN I'M MAKING.
HAVING CRASH LANDED ON THEIR WAY BACK TO KNOTHOLE, THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS SENT SONIC & TAILS TO RECONNOITER THE AREA.
AS ALWAYS, SONIC MAKES IT FUN...

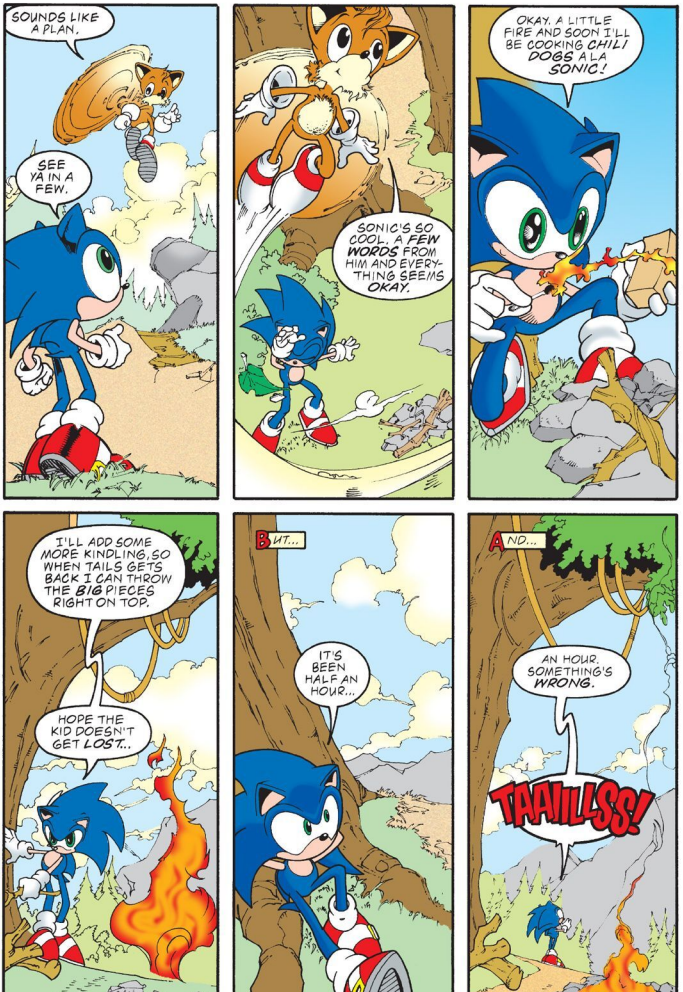



THAT'S IT, TAILS! YOU'VE GOT IT NOW!
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO FOLLOW ANYBODY ANYWHERE!
Ah, LOOK AT THEM. SO CHEERFUL AND OPTIMISTIC. SONIC THE HEDGEHOG AND HIS SIDEKICK TAILS, THE FLYING FOX.
IT'S TOUCHING TO SEE THIS DISPLAY OF FRIENDSHIP--

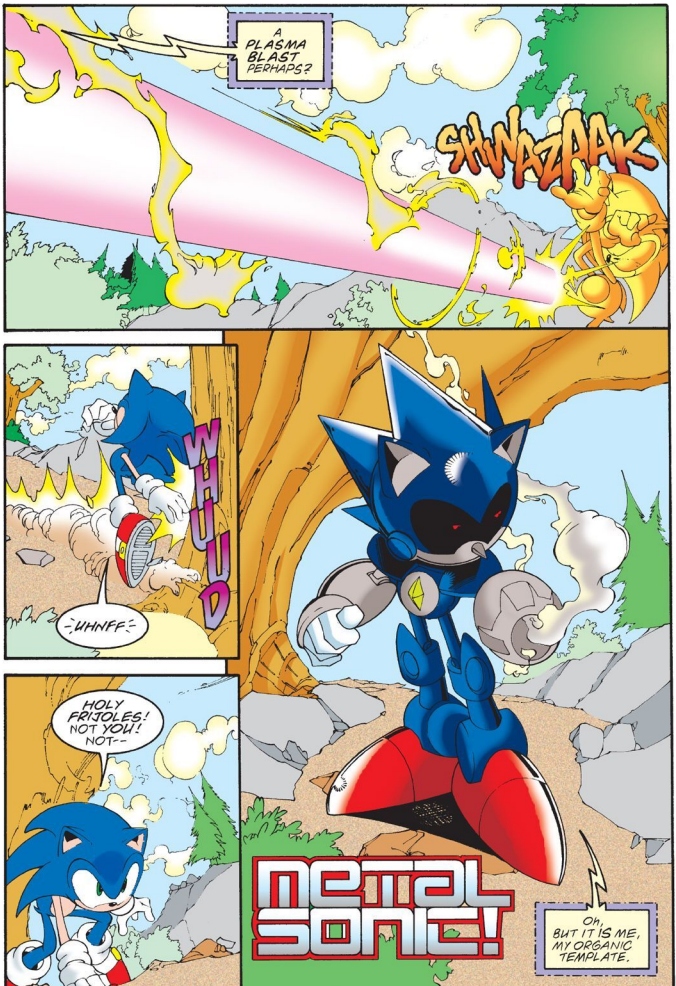

HEART OF THE HEDGEHOG
part 1
EVIL'S RETURN
SO TOUCHING TO SEE THOSE I HATE ENJOYING THEMSELVES...
...BECAUSE I KNOW THAT I WILL SOON TURN THEIR JOY TO TERROR!
DANNY FINGEROTH WRITER
SAM MAXWELL PENCILER
SALEEM CRAWFORD INKER
JEFF POWELL LETTERER
FRANK GAGLIARDO COLORIST
J.F. GABRIE EDITOR/ART DIRECTOR
VICTOR GORELICK MANAGING EDITOR
RICHARD GOLDWATER EDITOR IN CHIEF

WHOA! THAT WIND KNOCKED ME OFF COURSE!
EASY, TAILS! GO WITH IT!
I CAN'T! IT'S TOO STRONG!
PULL UP! PULL UP!
I'M TRYIN'!
IT'S OKAY, LI'L BUDDY--
--I GOT YA!
FWUMP


COULD I BE MORE EMBARRASSED?!
HEY, THAT'S WHY WE HAVE TRAINING SESSIONS! LIKE THIS. SO WHEN A REAL CRISIS COMES ALONG YOU'LL BE READY.
THERE BETTER NOT BE ONE SOON.
HEY--WE'VE BEEN THROUGH SOME TOUGH TIMES TOGETHER, TAILS, AND YOU'VE NEVER LET ME DOWN YET.
IN FACT, YOU HANDLED YOURSELF LIKE A PRO AT THE HIDDEN CITY OF THE ANCIENTS.
BUT THESE NEW MANEUVERS--I'LL NEVER LEARN THEM.
NEVER IS A LONG TIME, TAILS. WHEN I WAS TURNED INTO A ROBOT WAY BACK WHEN, I THOUGHT I'D NEVER BECOME A NORMAL HEDGEHOG AGAIN.
BUT I DID, AND IF I CAN "GET BETTER" FROM SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
...THEN YOU CAN LEARN TO DO A FEW NEW MANEUVERS.
SEEMS SO PETTY NEXT TO PROBLEMS LIKE YOU HAD, SONIC.
I WASN'T SAYIN' IT TO MAKE YOU FEEL BAD, BUD. BUT ENOUGH YAKKIN'
--LET'S GET YOU BACK INTO THE GAME AGAIN! WE NEED TO GET LUNCH STARTED. YOU GATHER SOME FIREWOOD--
--WHILE I GET THE KINDLING GOING.

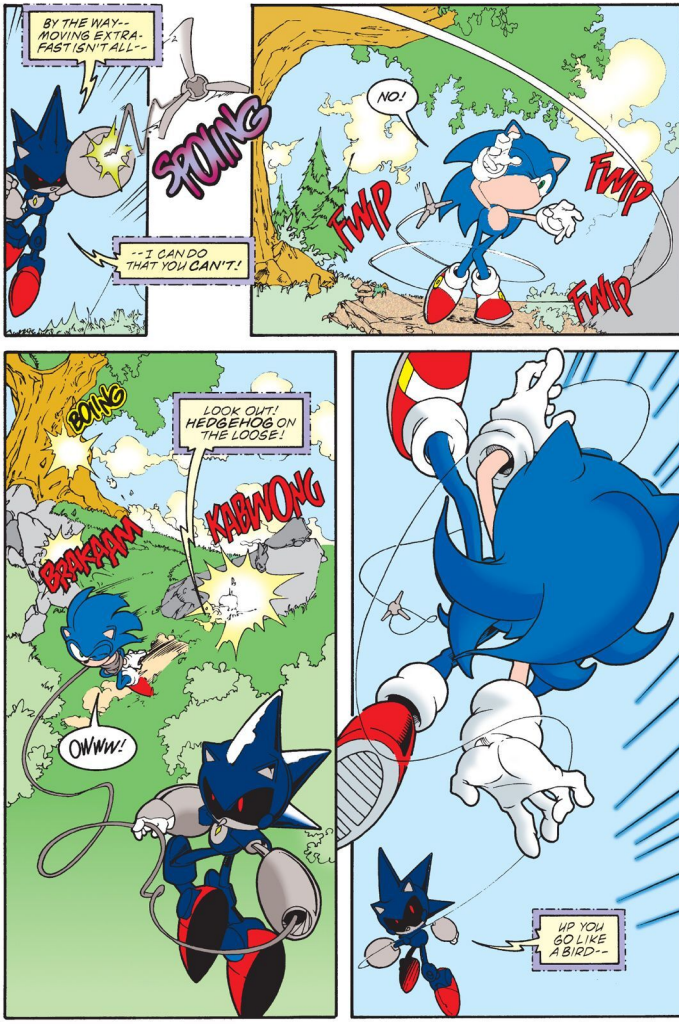

SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN.
SEE YA IN A FEW.
SONIC'S SO COOL. A FEW WORDS FROM HIM AND EVERYTHING SEEMS OKAY.
OKAY. A LITTLE FIRE AND SOON I'LL BE COOKING CHILI DOGS A LA SONIC!
I'LL ADD SOME MORE KINDLING, SO WHEN TAILS GETS BACK I CAN THROW THE BIG PIECES RIGHT ON TOP.
HOPE THE KID DOESN'T GET LOST...
BUT...
IT'S BEEN HALF AN HOUR...
AND...
AN HOUR. SOMETHING'S WRONG.
TAAIILSS!

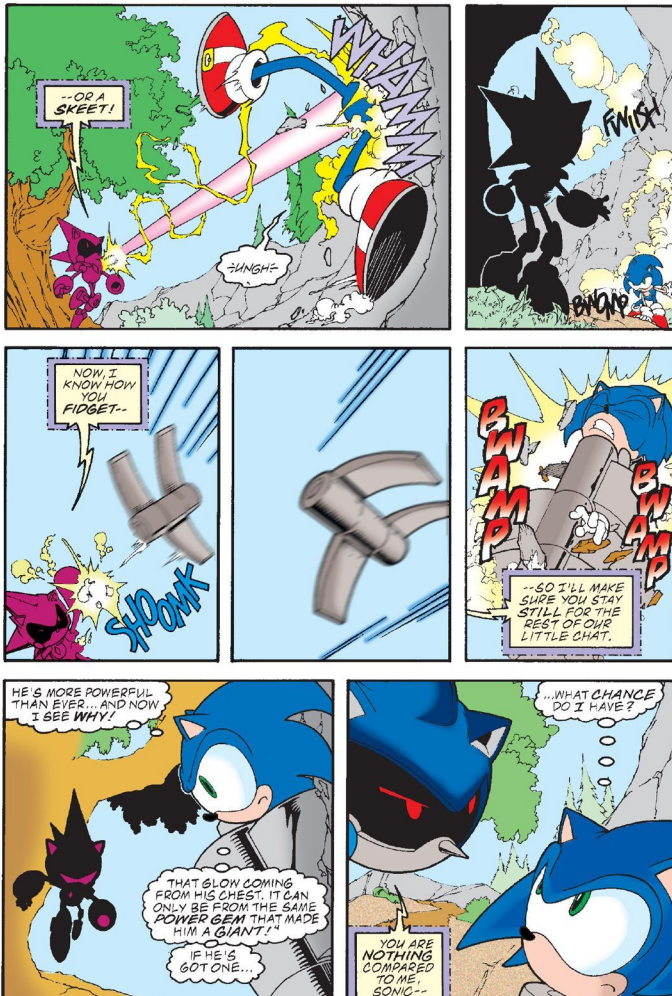
TAILS! TAILS!
TAIILLS!
COME OUT, COME OUT-- WHERE EVER YOU ARE!
BY A WATERFALL, I'M CALLING YOUUU!
TAIILLS!
THIS ISN'T FUNNY, TAILS!
NOT FUNNY AT ALL!
NOT GOOD. COULD I HAVE UPSET THE LITTLE GUY WITH MY RAZZIN' HIM OVER HIS--
LOOKING FOR SOMETHING, SONIC?


A PLASMA BLAST PERHAPS?
SHWAZPAAK
WHUD
-UHNFF-
HOLY FRIJOLES! NOT YOU! NOT--
METAL SONIC!
OH, BUT IT IS ME, MY ORGANIC TEMPLATE.

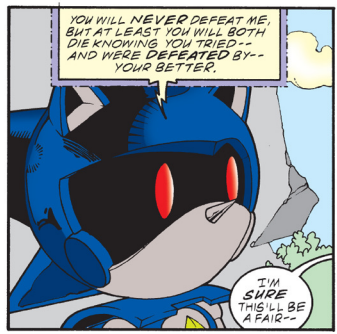
BUT I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD-- OR WHATEVER HAPPENS TO ROBOTS.
I WAS... DEACTIVATED ... AND SMASHED TO BITS...
BUT NOT BEING FLESH-AND-BLOOD LIKE YOURSELF...
...I WAS ABLE TO RECONSTRUCT MYSELF.
NOW CORRECT ME IF I'M WRONG, BOLTHEAD--
"--BUT WHILE I DID TRASH YOU GOOD AND SOLID LAST TIME WE MET..?
"...WASN'T IT MY FRIEND KNUCKLES WHO MADE A JUNK HEAP OUT OF YOU LAST TIME YOU WERE OUT AND ABOUT?"
KRA-KOOM!
"YOU AFTER HIM, TOO?"
HE'LL GET HIS SOON. MY PROGRAMMING DICTATES I DESTROY YOU FIRST.
I BEGAN EARLIER... WITH THE CAPTURE OF YOUR YOUNG FRIEND!
"TELL ME WHERE TAILS IS!
TELL ME!

SHUMP
I'M OVER HERE.
HOW'D HE MOVE SO FAST...?
HERE I AM. TAKE ANOTHER SHOT.
MISTER, WHEN YOU WAKE UP YOU'RE GONNA BE PART OF SOMEBODY'S VACUUM CLEANER!
YOU WERE SAYING...?
NO! NO ONE CAN DO THAT!
NO
ONE
EXCEPT
METAL SONIC!
STAY STILL, BLAST YOU!

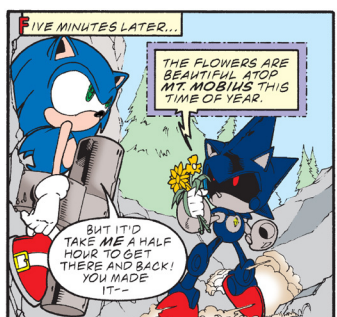

BY THE WAY--MOVING EXTRA-FAST ISN'T ALL--
SPRING
--I CAN DO THAT YOU CAN'T!
NO!
FWIP
FWIP
FWIP
BOING
LOOK OUT! HEDGEHOG ON THE LOOSE!
KABWONG
BRAKAAM
OWWW!
UP YOU GO LIKE A BIRD--

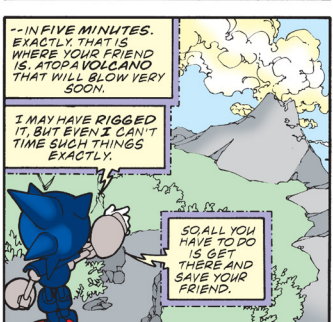

--OR A SKEET!
WHAMM
-UNGH-
FINISH
BWOAH
NOW, I KNOW HOW YOU FIDGET--
SHOOMK
BWAMP
BWAMP
--SO I'LL MAKE SURE YOU STAY STILL FOR THE REST OF OUR LITTLE CHAT.
HE'S MORE POWERFUL THAN EVER... AND NOW I SEE WHY!
THAT GLOW COMING FROM HIS CHEST. IT CAN ONLY BE FROM THE SAME POWER GEM THAT MADE HIM A GIANT!"
IF HE'S GOT ONE...
...WHAT CHANCE DO I HAVE?
YOU ARE NOTHING COMPARED TO ME, SONIC--

NOTHING!
BUT I AM A FAIR ROBOT. I WILL GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO SAVE YOUR FRIEND.

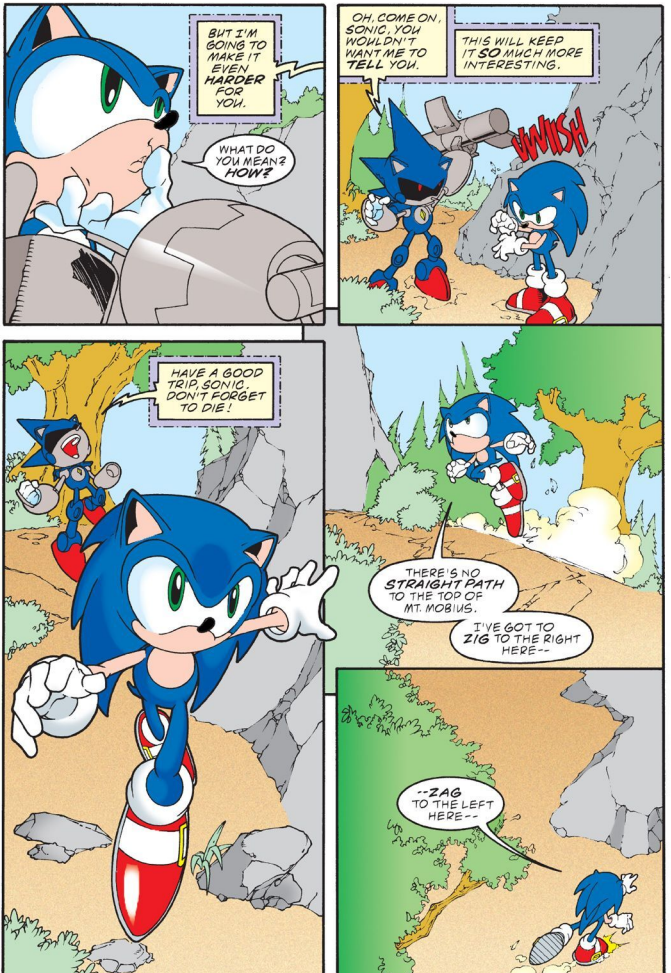

YOU WILL NEVER DEFEAT ME, BUT AT LEAST YOU WILL BOTH DIE KNOWING YOU TRIED-- AND WERE DEFEATED BY-- YOUR BETTER.
I'M SURE THIS'LL BE A FAIR--

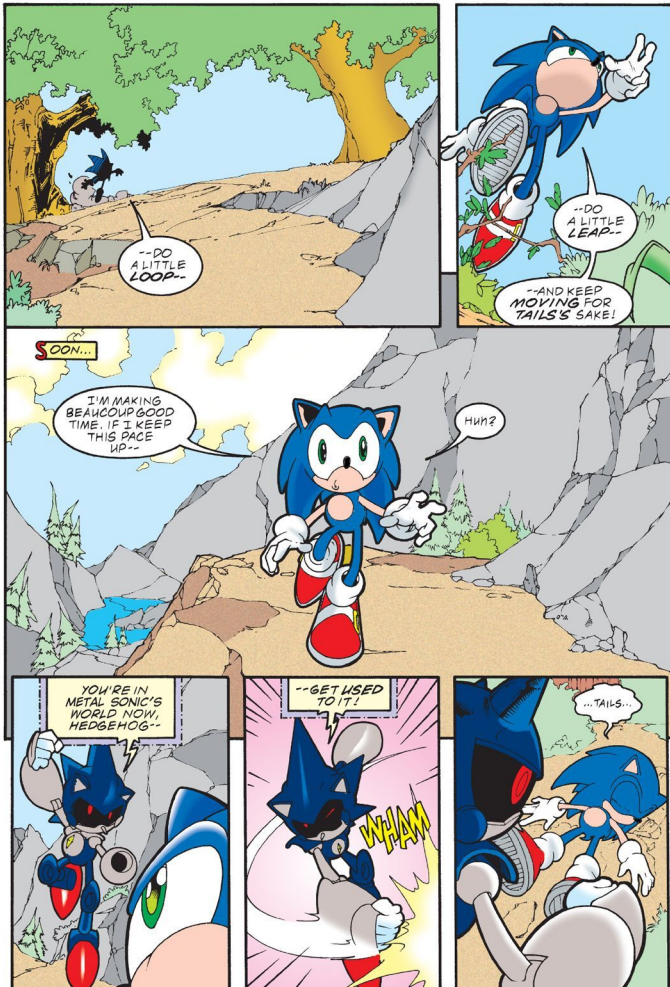
--CONTEST--?
WHERE'D YA GO, METALHEAD? REMEMBER A LUBE JOB APPOINTMENT?

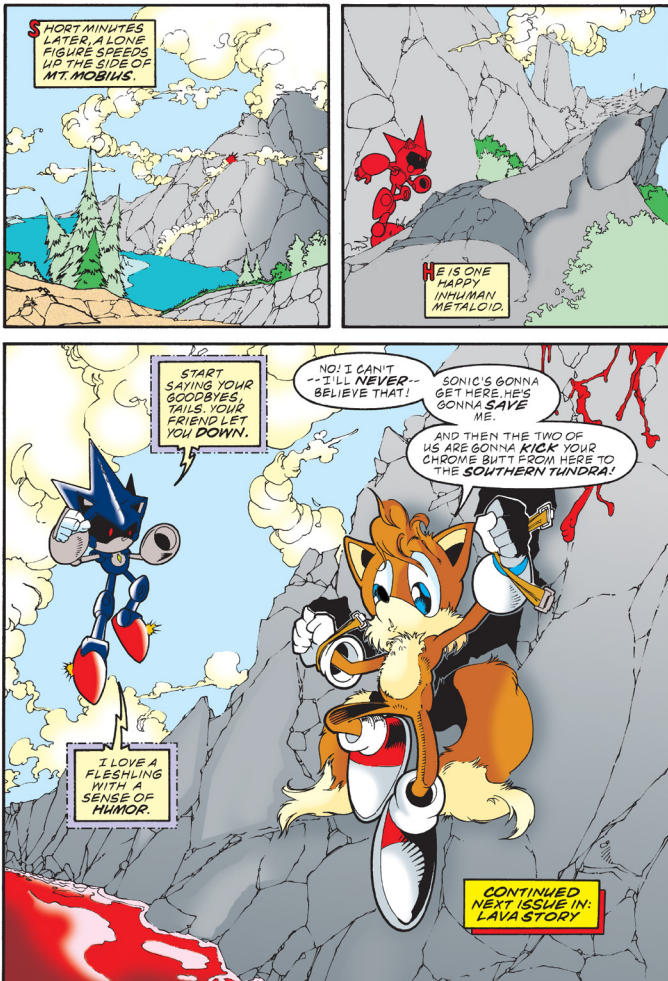

FIVE MINUTES LATER...
THE FLOWERS ARE BEAUTIFUL ATOP MT. MOBIUS THIS TIME OF YEAR.
BUT IT'D TAKE ME A HALF HOUR TO GET THERE AND BACK! YOU MADE IT--


--IN FIVE MINUTES. EXACTLY. THAT IS WHERE YOUR FRIEND IS. ATOP A VOLCANO THAT WILL BLOW VERY SOON.
I MAY HAVE RIGGED IT, BUT EVEN I CAN'T TIME SUCH THINGS EXACTLY.
SO, ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS GET THERE AND SAVE YOUR FRIEND.

FOR TAILS, I'LL BREAK THE LAND SPEED RECORD!
ADMIRABLE SENTIMENTS--

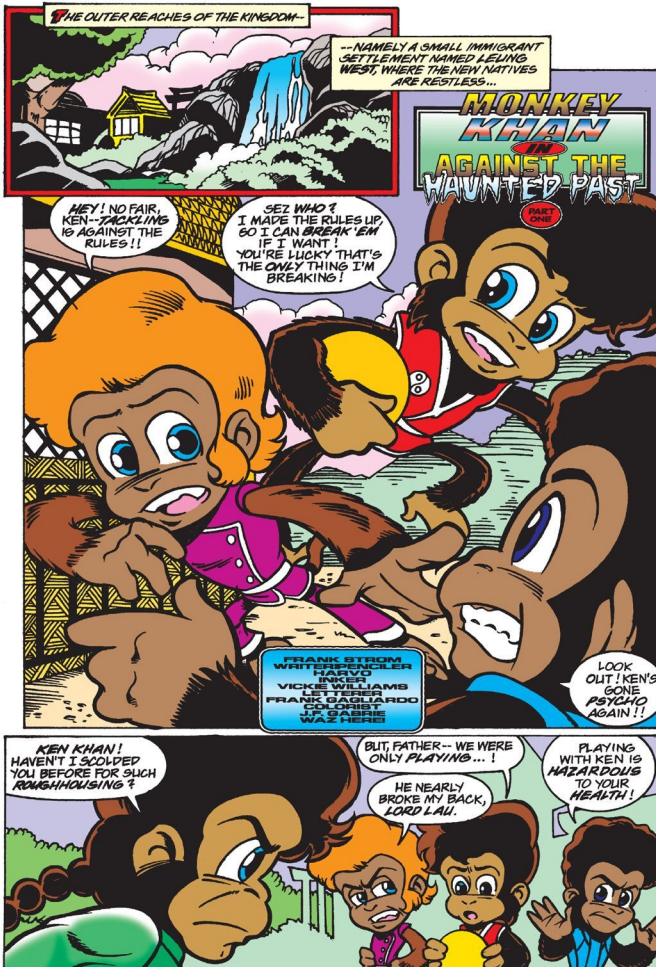

BUT I'M GOING TO MAKE IT EVEN HARDER FOR YOU.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? HOW?
OH, COME ON, SONIC, YOU WOULDN'T WANT ME TO TELL YOU.
THIS WILL KEEP IT SO MUCH MORE INTERESTING.
WHISH!
HAVE A GOOD TRIP, SONIC. DON'T FORGET TO DIE!
THERE'S NO STRAIGHT PATH TO THE TOP OF MT. MOBIUS.
I'VE GOT TO ZIG TO THE RIGHT HERE--
--ZAG TO THE LEFT HERE--

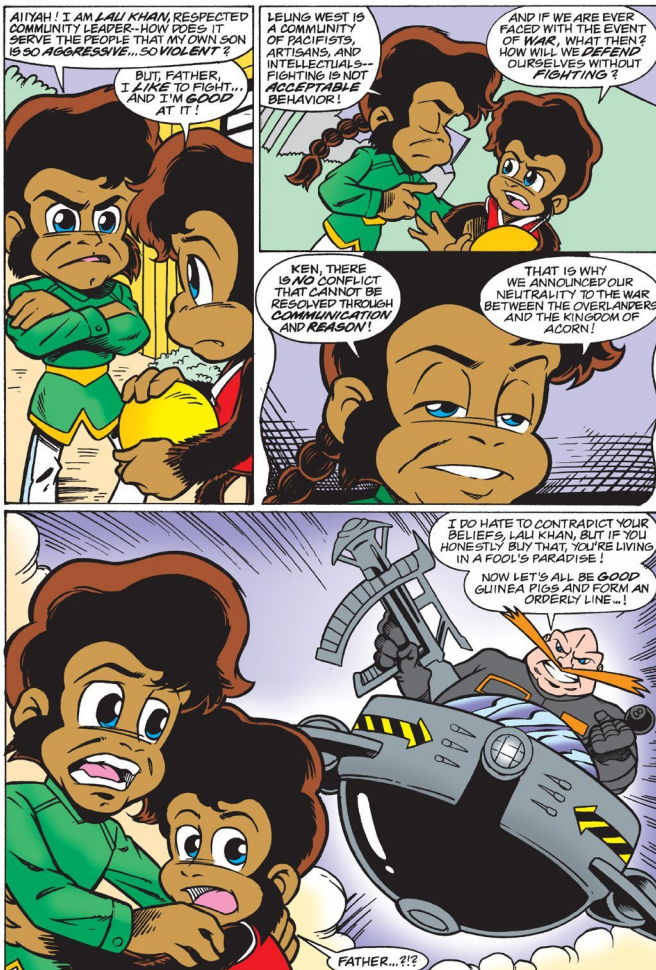

--DO A LITTLE LOOP--
--DO A LITTLE LEAP--
--AND KEEP MOVING FOR TAILS'S SAKE!
SOON...
I'M MAKING BEAUCOUP GOOD TIME. IF I KEEP THIS PACE UP--
HUH?
YOU'RE IN METAL SONIC'S WORLD NOW, HEDGEHOG--
--GET USED TO IT!
WHAM
...TAILS...


SHORT MINUTES LATER, A LONE FIGURE SPEEDS UP THE SIDE OF MT. MOBIUS.
HE IS ONE HAPPY INHUMAN METALOID.
START SAYING YOUR GOODBYES, TAILS. YOUR FRIEND LET YOU DOWN.
NO! I CAN'T --I'LL NEVER-- BELIEVE THAT!
SONIC'S GONNA GET HERE. HE'S GONNA SAVE ME.
AND THEN THE TWO OF US ARE GONNA KICK YOUR CHROME BUTT FROM HERE TO THE SOUTHERN TUNDRA!
I LOVE A FLESHLING WITH A SENSE OF HUMOR.
CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE IN: LAVA STORY

TEN YEARS AGO...

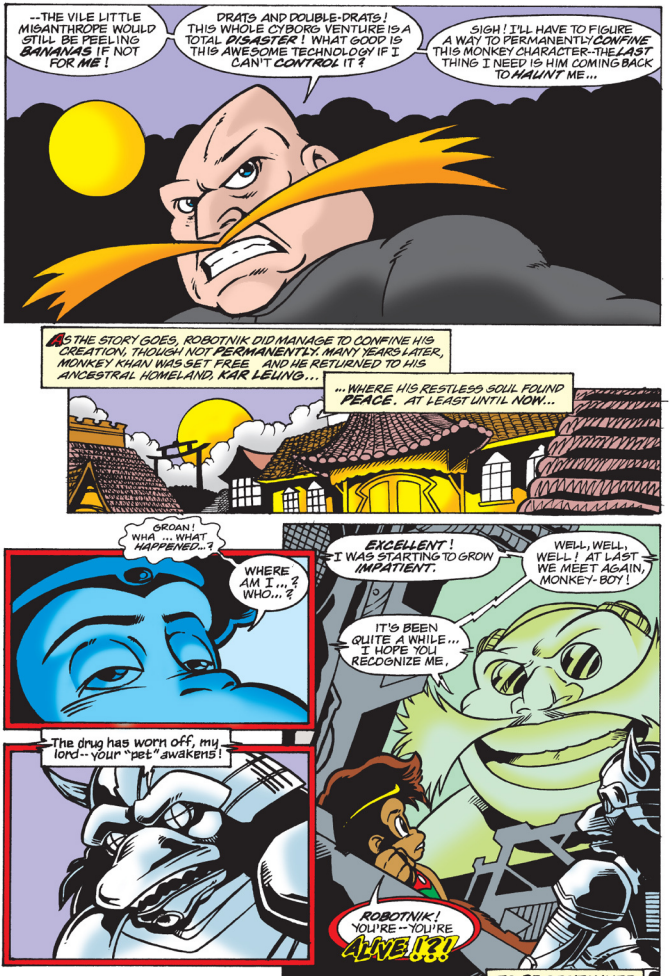
IN DAYS LONG PAST, MOBOTROPOLIS FACED CONFLICT FROM OUTSIDE ADVERSARIES, AND UNBEKNOWNST TO KING MAX, ONE FROM WITHIN AS WELL...
THE ADVANCES I'M MAKING WITH TECHNOLOGY WILL GREATLY AID YOUR PEOPLE.
WITH MEDICINAL APPLICATIONS ON THE BATTLEFIELD, WOUNDS AND FATALITIES CAN BE AVERTED--COUNTLESS LIVES WILL BE SAVED!
THIS RELENTLESS SCHEDULE YOU'VE SET FOR YOURSELF MUST BE BACKBREAKING, JULIAN! WHY NOT CUT BACK A LITTLE?
WITH THE WAR RAGING ON, THERE'S NO TIME TO SLACK OFF, YOUR HIGHNESS!
SIGH! VERY WELL--THERE'S NO DISPUTING THAT POINT! YOU'RE DOING GREAT WORK, AND WE'LL OWE YOU A DEBT OF THANKS!
NONSENSE! I AM BUT A HUMBLE TOOL -- IT IS YOUR HUMANE VISION THAT WE SHOULD ALL BE THANKFUL FOR!
FEH! THAT WAS DISGUSTING! HOW COULD YOU SUCK UP LIKE THAT? I'M EMBARRASSED TO CALL YOU MY UNCLE!
SNIVELY, YOU IDIOT! WOULD YOU RATHER THAT LITTLE RODENT KNOW WHAT I'M REALLY UP TO?
ONCE I'VE PERFECTED THE ART OF CYBERNETICS, MOBOTROPOLIS WILL FALL UNDER THE HEELS OF MY CYBORG ARMY!
AH! NOW THAT'S MORE LIKE IT!
THIS WOULD GO A LOT FASTER IF I COULD FIND SUITABLE GUINEA PIGS TO EXPERIMENT ON.
USING THE LOCALS WOULD GIVE AWAY MY PLAN--IF ONLY THERE WERE HABITANTS IN THE OUTER REACHES OF THE KINGDOM...


THE OUTER REACHES OF THE KINGDOM--
--NAMELY A SMALL IMMIGRANT SETTLEMENT NAMED LELING WEST, WHERE THE NEW NATIVES ARE RESTLESS...
MONKEY KHAN IN AGAINST THE HAUNTED PAST
PART ONE
HEY! NO FAIR, KEN--TACKLING IS AGAINST THE RULES!!
SEZ WHO? I MADE THE RULES UP, SO I CAN BREAK 'EM IF I WANT! YOU'RE LUCKY THAT'S THE ONLY THING I'M BREAKING!
FRANK STROM WRITER/PENCILER
HARVO INKER
VICKIE WILLIAMS LETTERER
FRANK GAGLIARDO COLORIST
JIM GABRIE WAZ HERE!
LOOK OUT! KEN'S GONE PSYCHO AGAIN!!
KEN KHAN! HAVEN'T I SCOLDED YOU BEFORE FOR SUCH ROUGHHOUSING?
BUT, FATHER-- WE WERE ONLY PLAYING... !
HE NEARLY BROKE MY BACK, LORD LAU.
PLAYING WITH KEN IS HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH!


AIIYAH! I AM LALI KHAN, RESPECTED COMMUNITY LEADER--HOW DOES IT SERVE THE PEOPLE THAT MY OWN SON IS SO AGGRESSIVE...SO VIOLENT?
BUT, FATHER, I LIKE TO FIGHT... AND I'M GOOD AT IT!
LELING WEST IS A COMMUNITY OF PACIFISTS, ARTISANS, AND INTELLECTUALS--FIGHTING IS NOT ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR!
AND IF WE ARE EVER FACED WITH THE EVENT OF WAR, WHAT THEN? HOW WILL WE DEFEND OURSELVES WITHOUT FIGHTING?
KEN, THERE IS NO CONFLICT THAT CANNOT BE RESOLVED THROUGH COMMUNICATION AND REASON!
THAT IS WHY WE ANNOUNCED OUR NEUTRALITY TO THE WAR BETWEEN THE OVERLANDERS AND THE KINGDOM OF ACORN!
I DO HATE TO CONTRADICT YOUR BELIEFS, LALI KHAN, BUT IF YOU HONESTLY BUY THAT, YOU'RE LIVING IN A FOOL'S PARADISE!
NOW LET'S ALL BE GOOD GUINEA PIGS AND FORM AN ORDERLY LINE...!
FATHER...?!?

EVENTUALLY...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND-- MY THEORIES OF CYBERNETICS WERE SOUND ENOUGH...
...AND YET THESE MONKEY-BOYS' BODIES KEEP REJECTING MY CYBORG-IMPLANTS!
NONE OF THEM WERE STRONG ENOUGH TO ADAPT...
...NONE BUT YOU, THAT IS, YOUNG KEN KHAN-- MOBIUS'S FIRST CYBORG!
HERE I WANTED AN ARMY OF CYBER-SOLDIERS, AND INSTEAD I GET ONE CHIMP WITH A BIG STICK! I'LL BE THE LAUGHING STOCK OF MOBOTROPOLIS IF THIS EVER LEAKED OUT!
STILL, IT'S PROBABLY BEST TO GIVE YOU A ROAD TEST BEFORE I GIVE UP ON THIS IDEA.
I WONDER WHAT SORT OF MILEAGE YOU GET...?
PERIMETER SECURITY CHECKS OUT, SARGE-- NOTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY.
NO SURPRISE THERE, BRIGGS, THOSE MANGY ANIMALS AREN'T STUPID ENOUGH TO...
HEADS UP, TROOPS! WE'VE GOT A BOGEY COMIN' IN FAST!
WHAT-- ONLY ONE? THAT'S NUTS!

FOR A TRUE WARRIOR, ONE IS MORE THAN ENOUGH!
DON'T PANIC, MEN-- WE'VE GOT THE LITTLE BUGGER OUT-GUNNED!
NOT FOR LONG!
KER-THOOOOM!
GOOD LORD--THE TANK! PULL BACK! PULL BACK!
Hee-hee! LOOK AT THOSE OVERLANDERS SCATTER! BRAVO! BRAVO!
WITH A POWERHOUSE LIKE YOU, MY LITTLE MONKEY KHAN, I WON'T NEED AN ARMY!
KING MAX'S MEN WON'T KNOW WHAT HIT THEM WHEN I SET YOU LOOSE ON...
NO! YOU COST ME MY FAMILY... MY FRIENDS...!
I'LL NEVER WORK FOR A SOULLESS FIEND LIKE YOU!!
WHA-A-AT? THIS IS MUTINY! KEEP BACK OR...!
AARGH!!
TALK ABOUT INGRATITUDE--


--THE VILE LITTLE MISANTHROPE WOULD STILL BE PEELING BANANAS IF NOT FOR ME!
DRATS AND DOUBLE-DRATS! THIS WHOLE CYBORG VENTURE IS A TOTAL DISASTER! WHAT GOOD IS THIS AWESOME TECHNOLOGY IF I CAN'T CONTROL IT?
SIGH! I'LL HAVE TO FIGURE A WAY TO PERMANENTLY CONFINE THIS MONKEY CHARACTER--THE LAST THING I NEED IS HIM COMING BACK TO HAUNT ME...
AS THE STORY GOES, ROBOTNIK DID MANAGE TO CONFINE HIS CREATION, THOUGH NOT PERMANENTLY. MANY YEARS LATER, MONKEY KHAN WAS SET FREE AND HE RETURNED TO HIS ANCESTRAL HOMELAND, KAR LELING...
...WHERE HIS RESTLESS SOUL FOUND PEACE. AT LEAST UNTIL NOW...
GROAN! WHA ... WHAT HAPPENED...?
WHERE AM I...? WHO...?
The drug has worn off, my lord--your "pet" awakens!
EXCELLENT! I WAS STARTING TO GROW IMPATIENT.
WELL, WELL, WELL! AT LAST WE MEET AGAIN, MONKEY-BOY!
IT'S BEEN QUITE A WHILE... I HOPE YOU RECOGNIZE ME,
ROBOTNIK! YOU'RE--YOU'RE ALIVE!?!
TO BE CONTINUED

THE EVOLUTION OF METAL SONIC

The Metal Sonic Series refers to the line of badniks designed after Sonic the Hedgehog, most specifically the sleek, blue robots directly referred to as "Metal Sonic."

DESIGNATE: METAL SONIC V 1.0

This Metal Sonic raced Sonic in the Collision Chaos Zone for the safety of Tails and Amy Rose. This unit ended up melting itself with the heat of its own engine trying to keep up with Sonic.

DESIGNATE: METAL SONIC V 2.0

Salvaged and upgraded, Metal Sonic was pitted against the Chaotix during their first mission together. It was powered by a power gem at its core and was seemingly destroyed.

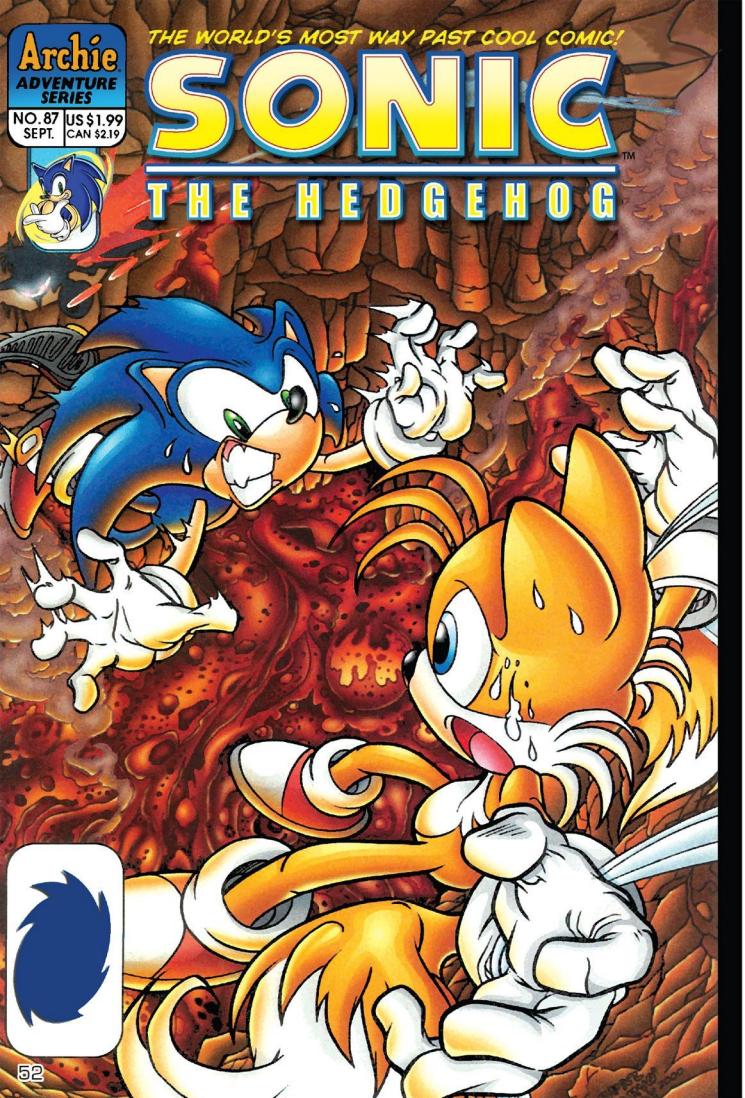
DESIGNATE: METAL SONIC V 2.5

The same unit survived its battle on Angel Island and underwent heavy self-repair, its A.I. advancing in the process. It was faster than Sonic and possessed metamorphic abilities. Ultimately, it learned the value of life and sacrificed itself to save Sonic and Tails.

DESIGNATE: METAL SONIC V 3.0

Built from the ground up, this is the standard model in use today.

v3.0 -- Battled Sonic and Shadow.
v3.1 -- Caught Sonic on the eve of Knothole City's destruction.
v3.2 -- Was paired with Metal Scourge.
v3.3 -- Traveled to Moebius and Blaze's world battling Shadow.
v3.4 -- Defended the Death Egg II.
v3.5 -- Blew up, severely injuring Antoine.
v3.6 -- Battled Team Freedom and lost to Shard.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US $1.99
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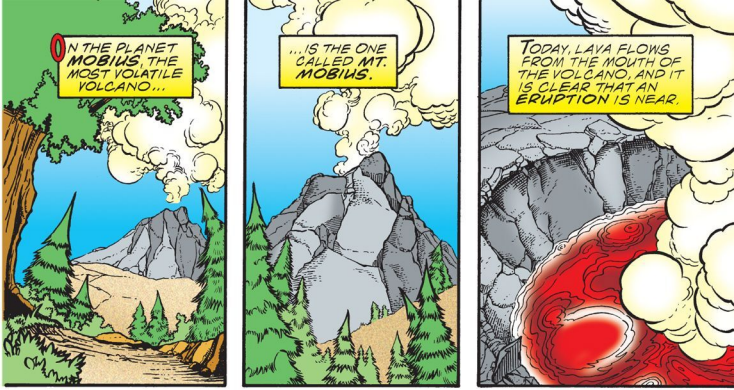
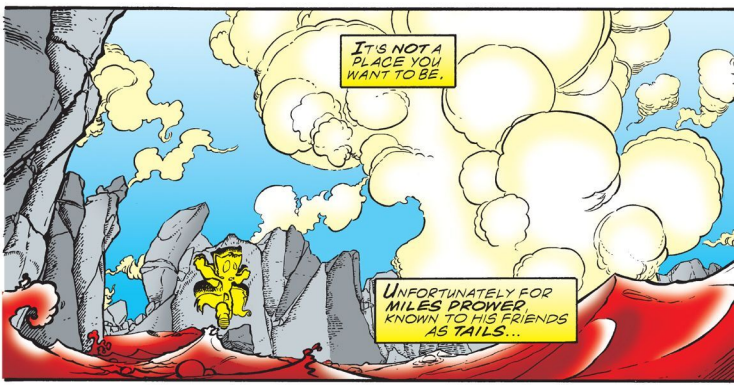
THE WORLD'S MOST WAY PAST COOL COMIC!
SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG


ON THE PLANET MOBIUS, THE MOST VOLATILE VOLCANO...
...IS THE ONE CALLED MT. MOBIUS.
TODAY, LAVA FLOWS FROM THE MOUTH OF THE VOLCANO, AND IT IS CLEAR THAT AN ERUPTION IS NEAR.


IT'S NOT A PLACE YOU WANT TO BE.
UNFORTUNATELY FOR MILES PROWER, KNOWN TO HIS FRIENDS AS TAILS...

...HE HAS VERY LITTLE CHOICE IN THE MATTER.

VERY FAR OFF, TAILS FRIEND AND MENTOR--

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG

--DICKS HIMSELF UP FROM HIS LATEST SETBACK IN HIS ATTEMPT TO SAVE HIS YOUNG ALLY.

MAN, METALSONIC CLOCKED ME WITH THE WORLD'S SNEAKIEST SUCKER PUNCH.

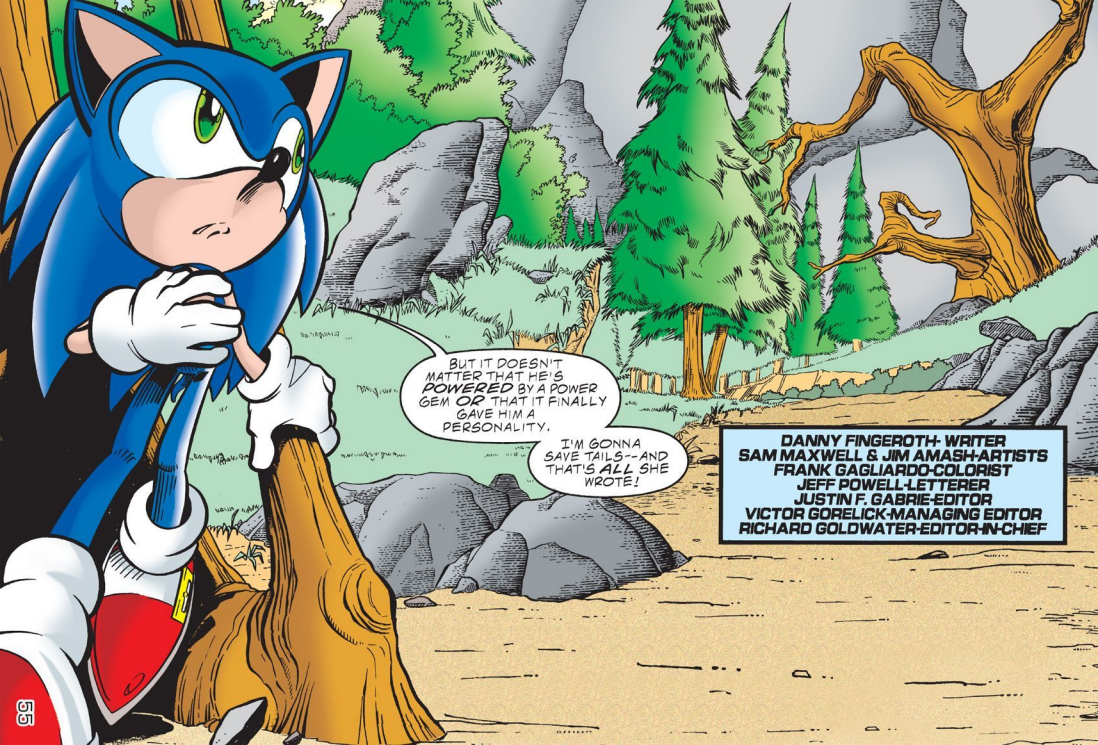
AND I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE'LL BE LURKING AROUND NEXT.

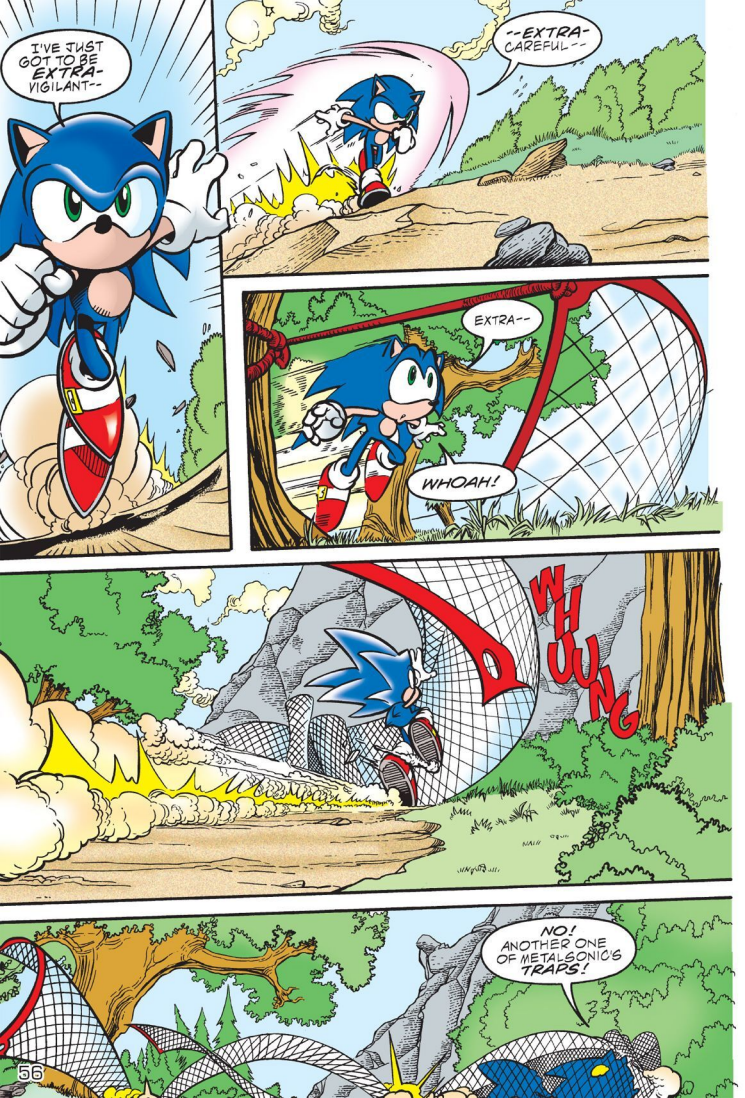
After ten long years, the iron-fisted rule of DOCTOR ROBOTNIK over planet MOBIUS was believed to have finally ended! With the technological tyrant vanquished and his polluted factories shut down, order and beauty were restored to the city of MOBOTROPOLIS. Now the villain has returned to wreak havoc once more, but there are many who are willing to stand against him in the fight for freedom. The bravest among them is a brash, blue streak who just happens to be the fastest thing alive! ARCHIE COMICS AND SEGA PRESENT... SONIC THE HEDGEHOG!

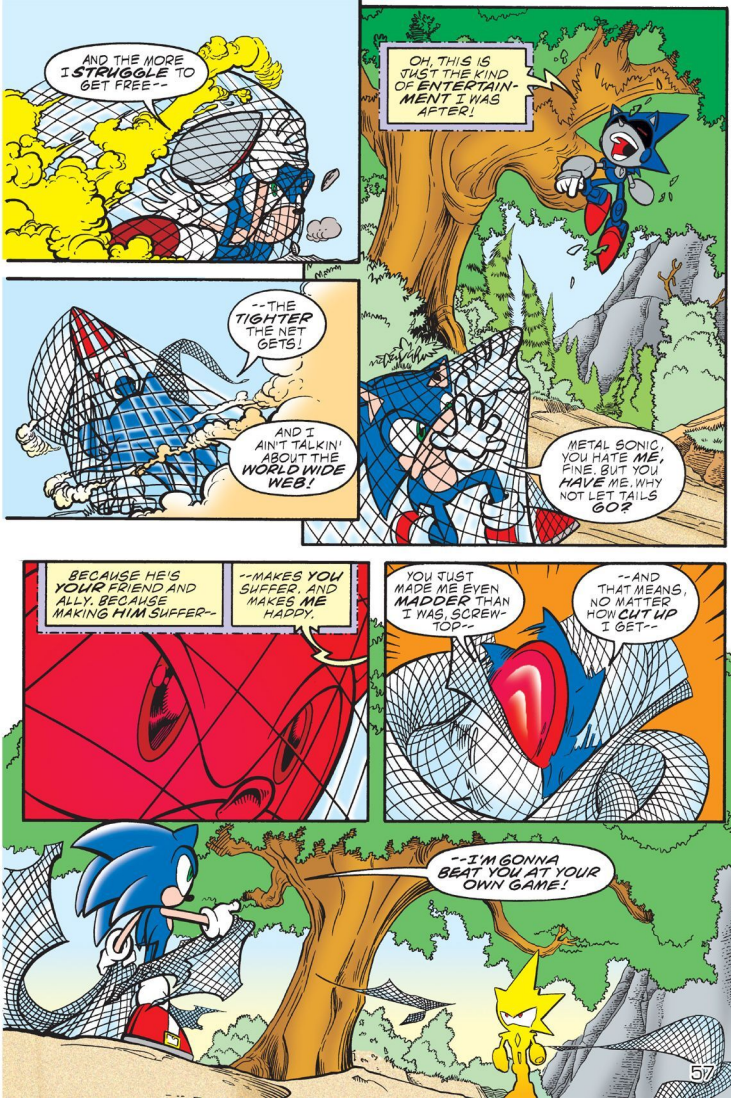
HEART OF THE HEDGEHOG

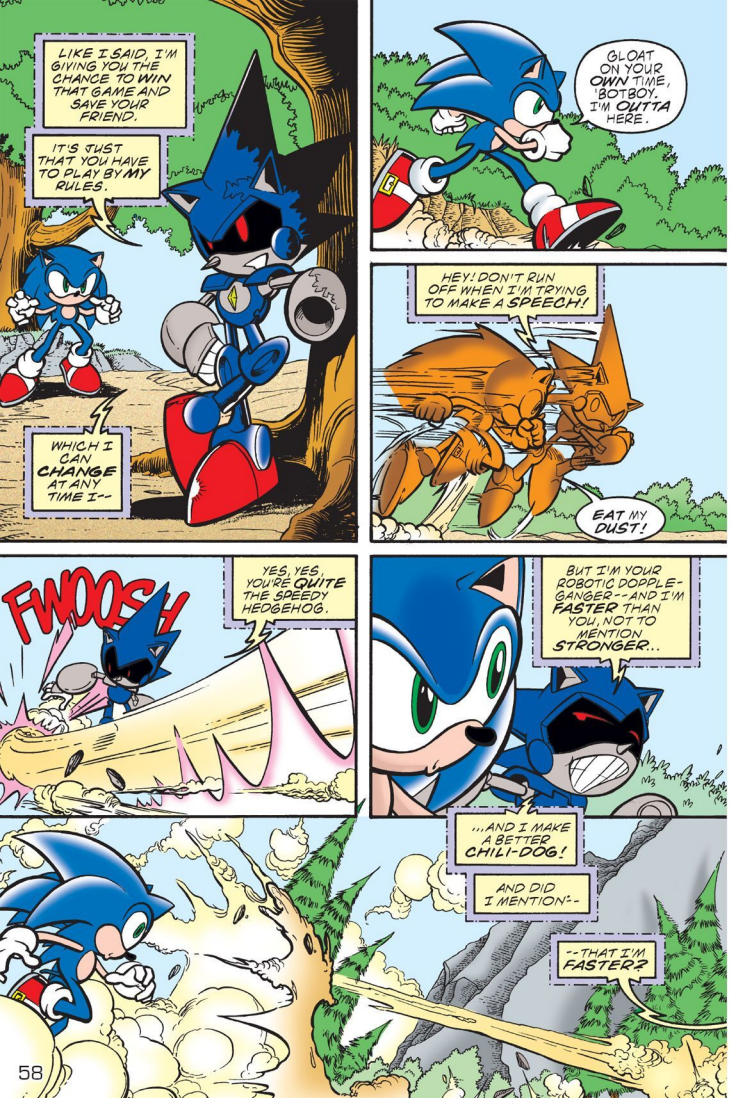
part 2

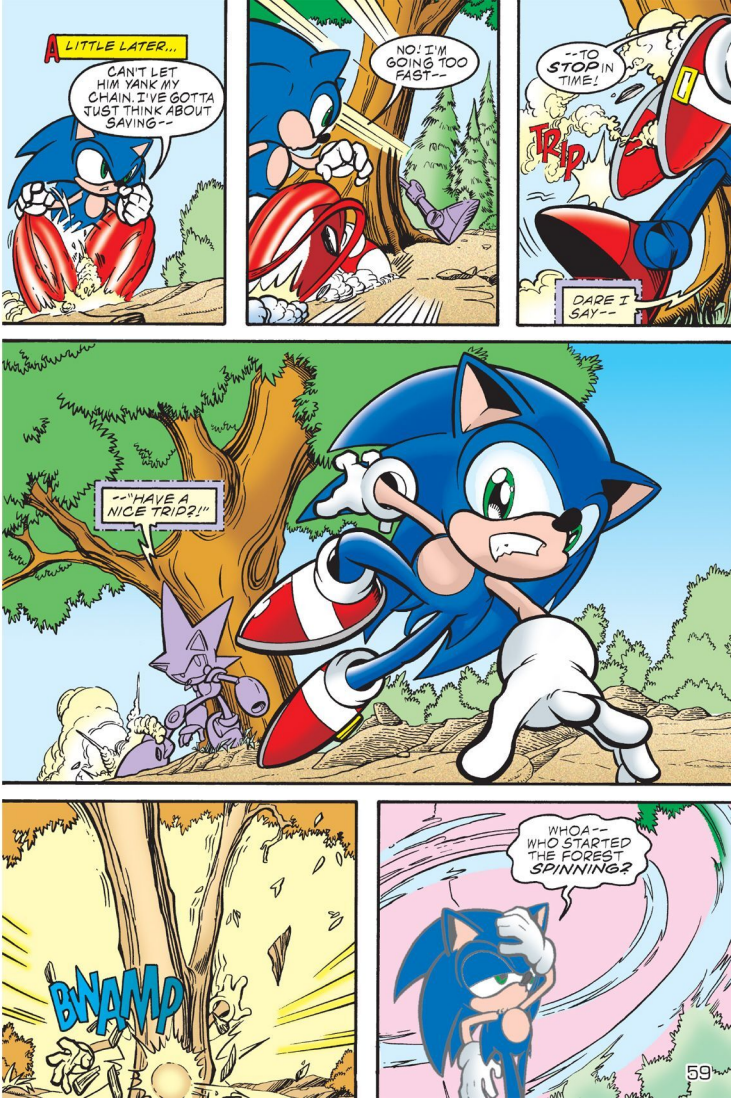
LAVA STORY

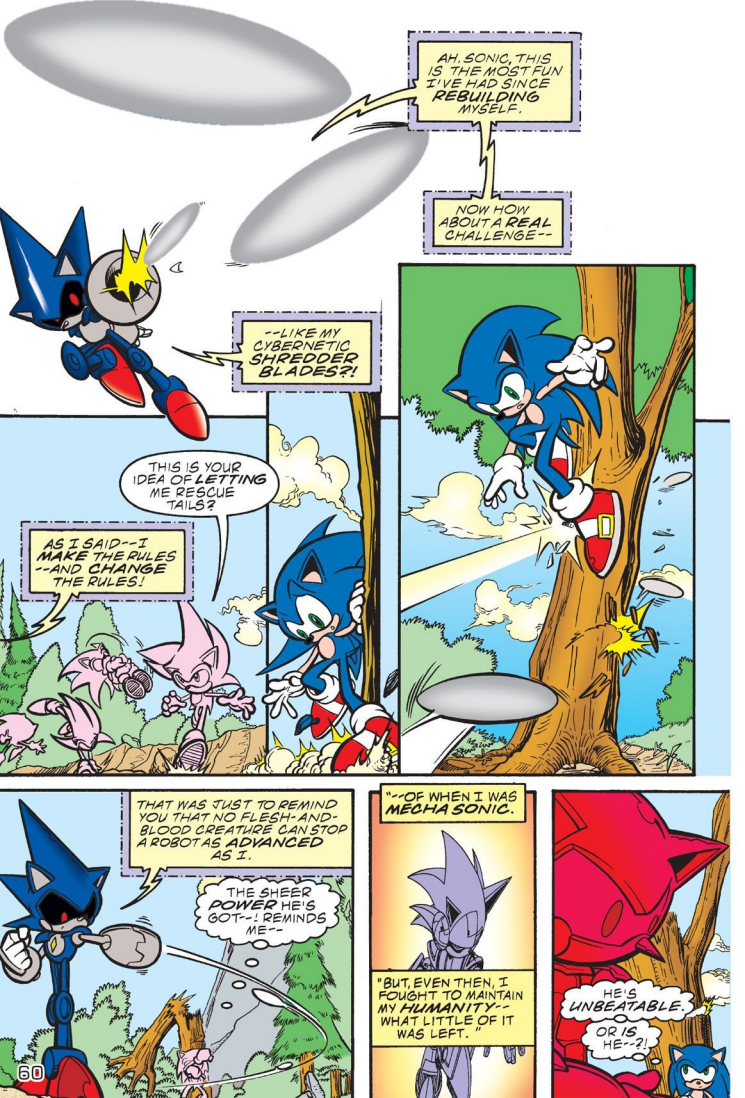

BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER THAT HE'S POWERED BY A POWER GEM OR THAT IT FINALLY GAVE HIM A PERSONALITY.
I'M GONNA SAVE TAILS--AND THAT'S ALL SHE WROTE!
DANNY FINGEROTH- WRITER
SAM MAXWELL & JIM AMASH-ARTISTS
FRANK GAGLIARDO-COLORIST
JEFF POWELL-LETTERER
JUSTIN F. GABRIE-EDITOR
VICTOR GORELICK-MANAGING EDITOR
RICHARD GOLDWATER-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

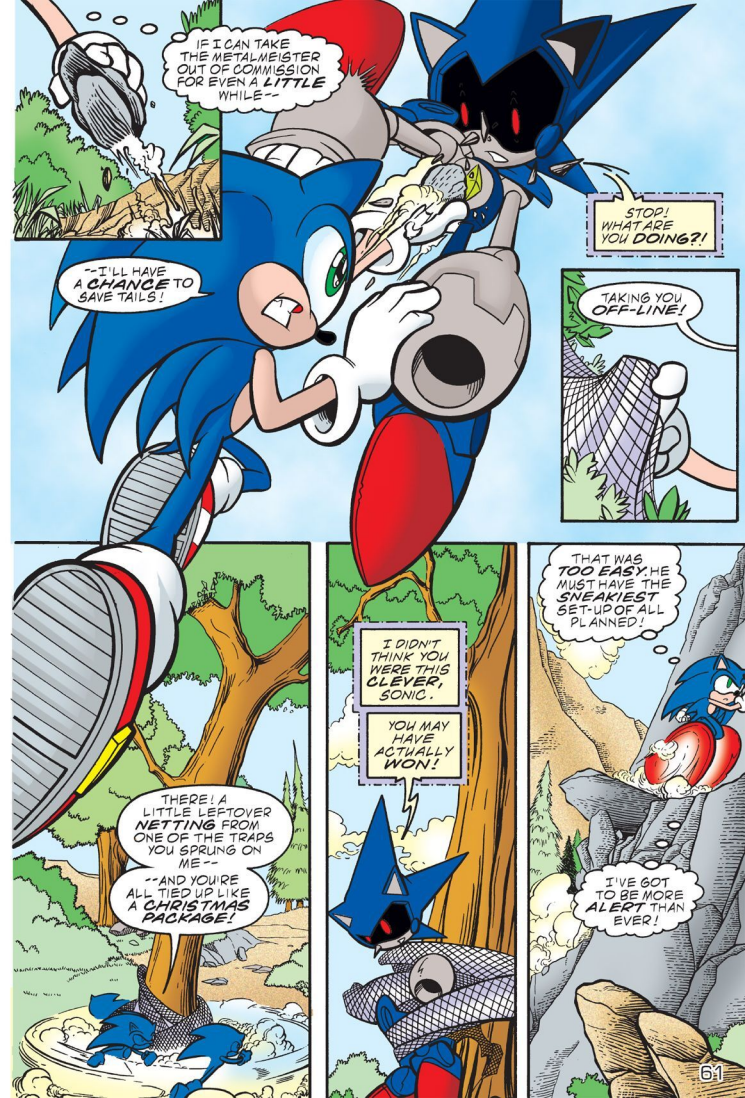

I'VE JUST GOT TO BE EXTRA-VIGILANT--
--EXTRA-CAREFUL--
EXTRA--
WHOAH!
WHUNG
NO! ANOTHER ONE OF METALSONIC'S TRAPS!

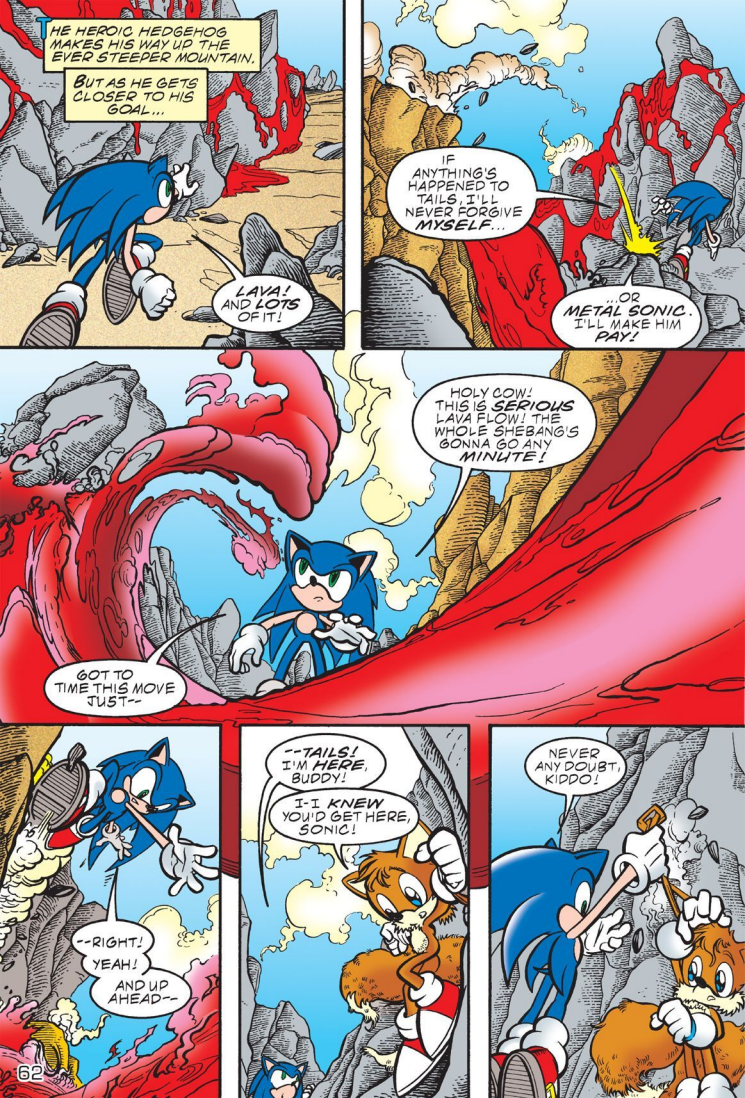

AND THE MORE I STRUGGLE TO GET FREE--
OH, THIS IS JUST THE KIND OF ENTERTAINMENT I WAS AFTER!
--THE TIGHTER THE NET GETS!
AND I AIN'T TALKIN' ABOUT THE WORLD WIDE WEB!
METAL SONIC, YOU HATE ME, FINE. BUT YOU HAVE ME. WHY NOT LET TAILS GO?
BECAUSE HE'S YOUR FRIEND AND ALLY. BECAUSE MAKING HIM SUFFER--
--MAKES YOU SUFFER. AND MAKES ME HAPPY.
YOU JUST MADE ME EVEN MADDER THAN I WAS, SCREWTOP--
--AND THAT MEANS, NO MATTER HOW CUT UP I GET--
--I'M GONNA BEAT YOU AT YOUR OWN GAME!

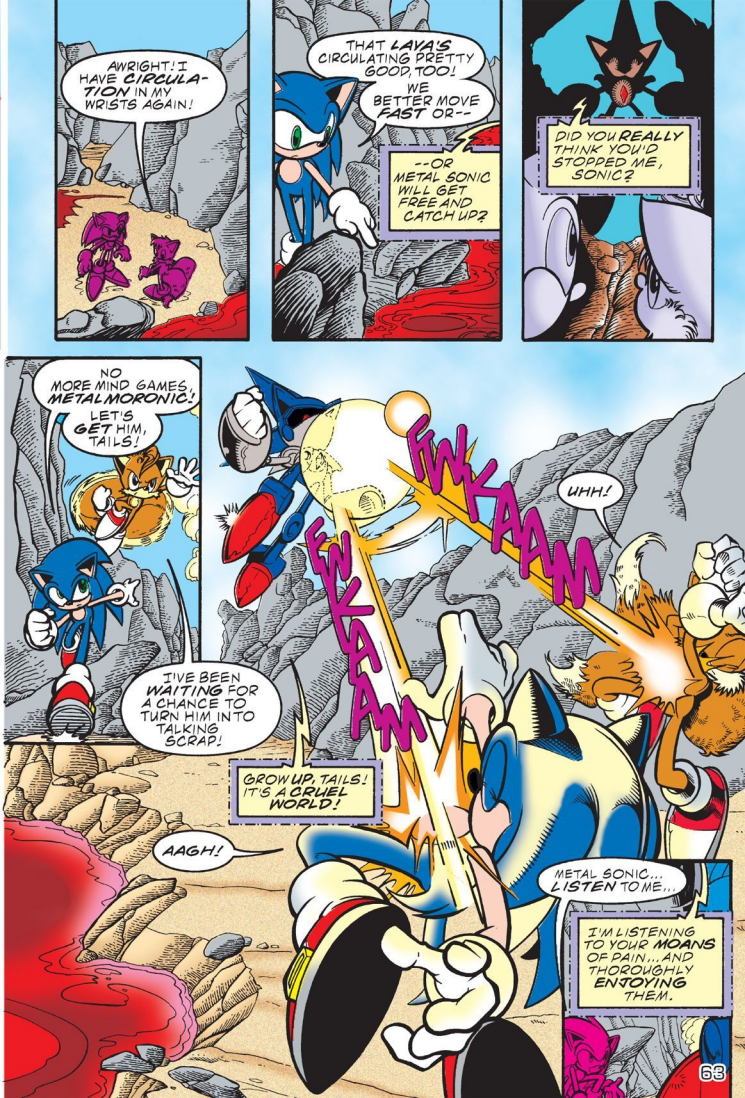

LIKE I SAID, I'M GIVING YOU THE CHANCE TO WIN THAT GAME AND SAVE YOUR FRIEND.
IT'S JUST THAT YOU HAVE TO PLAY BY MY RULES.
WHICH I CAN CHANGE AT ANY TIME I--
GLOAT ON YOUR OWN TIME, 'BOTBOY. I'M OUTTA HERE.
HEY! DON'T RUN OFF WHEN I'M TRYING TO MAKE A SPEECH!
EAT MY DUST!
FWOOSH
YES, YES, YOU'RE QUITE THE SPEEDY HEDGEHOG.
BUT I'M YOUR ROBOTIC DOPPLE-GANGER--AND I'M FASTER THAN YOU, NOT TO MENTION STRONGER...
...AND I MAKE A BETTER CHILI-DOG!
AND DID I MENTION--
--THAT I'M FASTER?

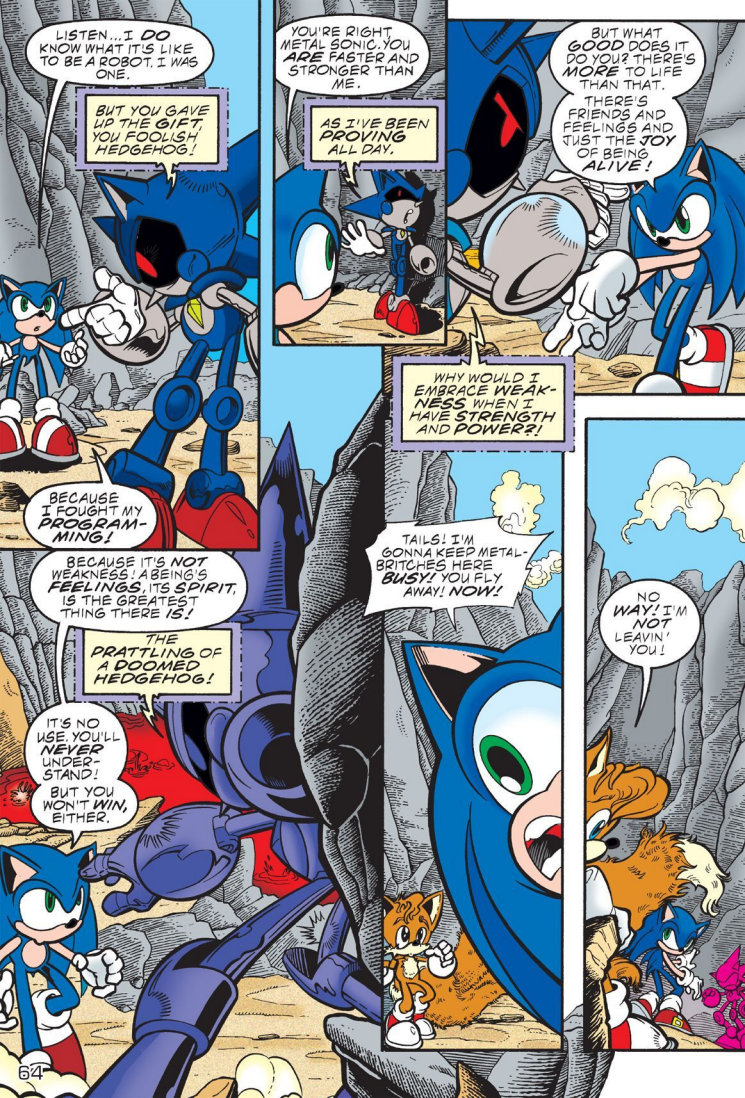

A LITTLE LATER...
CAN'T LET HIM YANK MY CHAIN. I'VE GOTTA JUST THINK ABOUT SAVING--
NO! I'M GOING TOO FAST--
--TO STOP IN TIME!
TRIP
DARE I SAY--
--"HAVE A NICE TRIP2!"
BWAMP
WHOA-- WHO STARTED THE FOREST SPINNING?

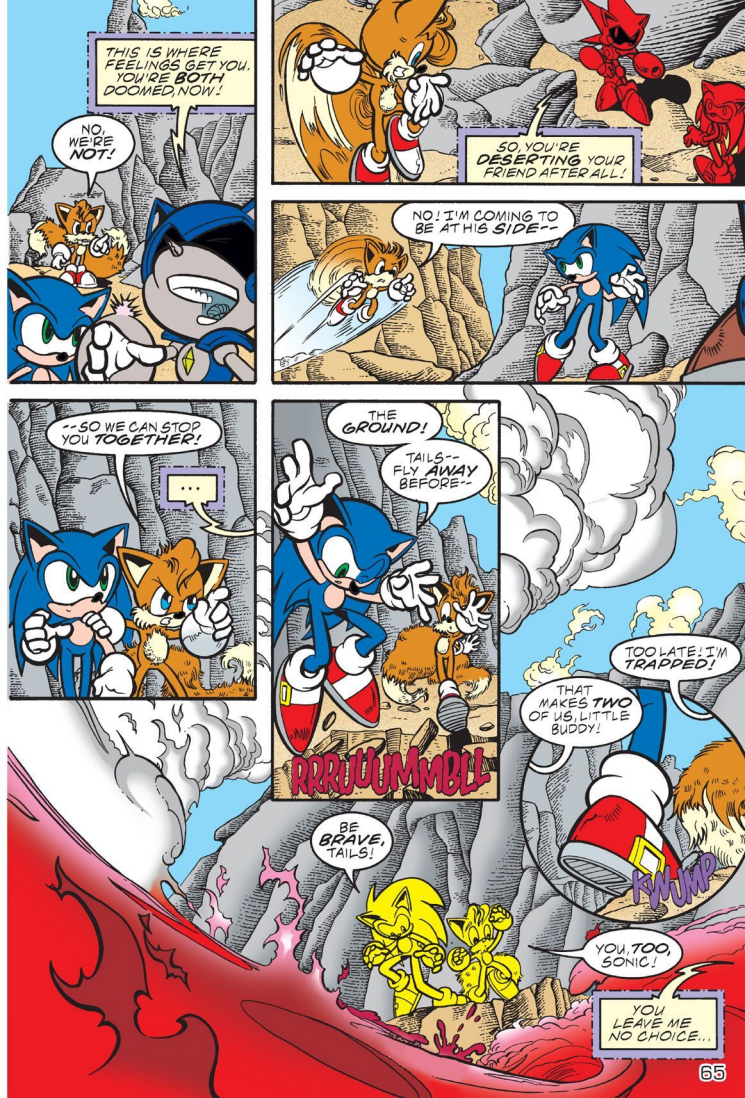

AH, SONIC, THIS IS THE MOST FUN I'VE HAD SINCE REBUILDING MYSELF.
NOW HOW ABOUT A REAL CHALLENGE--
--LIKE MY CYBERNETIC SHREDDER BLADES?!
THIS IS YOUR IDEA OF LETTING ME RESCUE TAILS?
AS I SAID--I MAKE THE RULES --AND CHANGE THE RULES!
THAT WAS JUST TO REMIND YOU THAT NO FLESH-AND-BLOOD CREATURE CAN STOP A ROBOT AS ADVANCED AS I.
THE SHEER POWER HE'S GOT--! REMINDS ME--
"--OF WHEN I WAS MECHA SONIC.
"BUT, EVEN THEN, I FOUGHT TO MAINTAIN MY HUMANITY--WHAT LITTLE OF IT WAS LEFT."
HE'S UNBEATABLE.
OR IS HE--?!

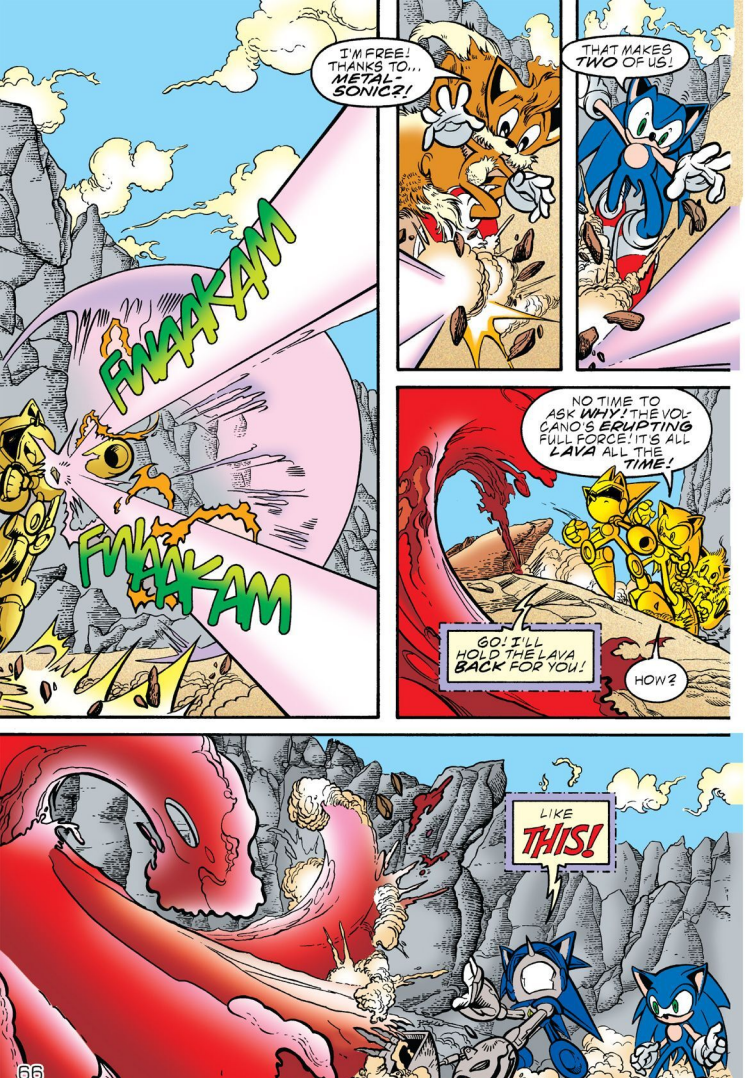

IF I CAN TAKE THE METALMEISTER OUT OF COMMISSION FOR EVEN A LITTLE WHILE--
--I'LL HAVE A CHANCE TO SAVE TAILS!
STOP! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
TAKING YOU OFF-LINE!
THERE! A LITTLE LEFTOVER NETTING FROM ONE OF THE TRAPS YOU SPRUNG ON ME--
--AND YOU'RE ALL TIED UP LIKE A CHRISTMAS PACKAGE!
I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE THIS CLEVER, SONIC.
YOU MAY HAVE ACTUALLY WON!
THAT WAS TOO EASY. HE MUST HAVE THE SNEAKIEST SET-UP OF ALL PLANNED!
I'VE GOT TO BE MORE ALERT THAN EVER!

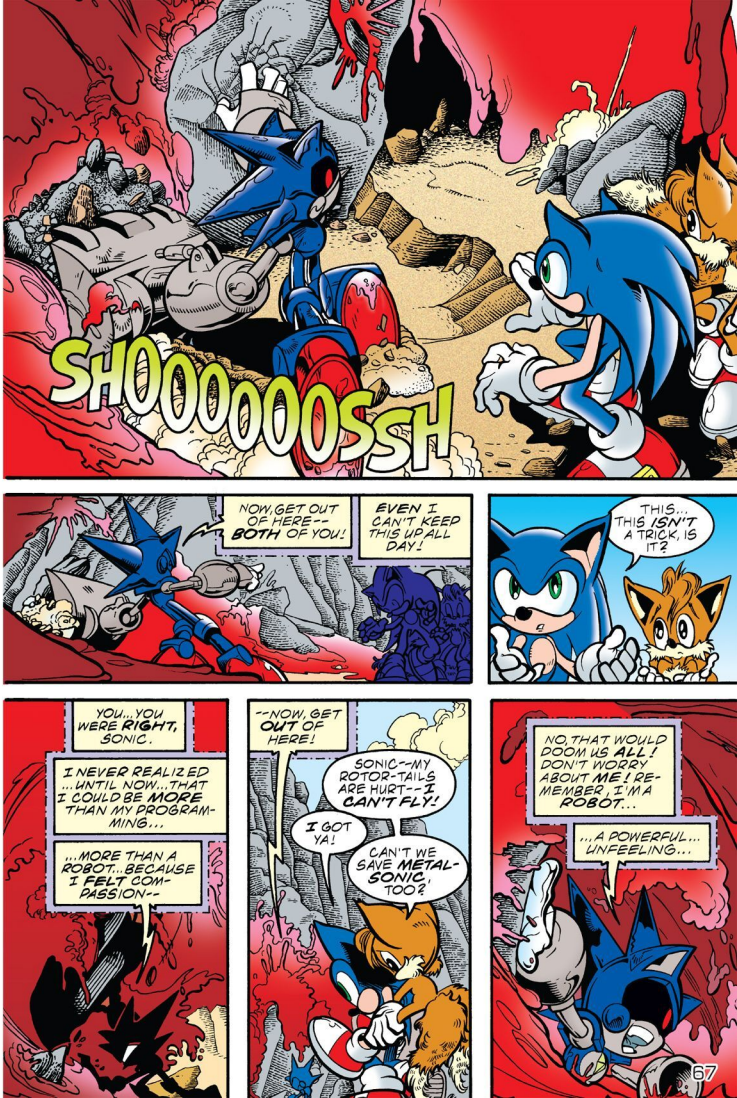

THE HEROIC HEDGEHOG MAKES HIS WAY UP THE EVER STEEPER MOUNTAIN.
BUT AS HE GETS CLOSER TO HIS GOAL...
LAVA! AND LOTS OF IT!
IF ANYTHING'S HAPPENED TO TAILS, I'LL NEVER FORGIVE MYSELF...
...OR METAL SONIC. I'LL MAKE HIM PAY!
HOLY COW! THIS IS SERIOUS LAVA FLOW! THE WHOLE SHEBANG'S GONNA GO ANY MINUTE!
GOT TO TIME THIS MOVE JUST--
--RIGHT! YEAH! AND UP AHEAD--
--TAILS! I'M HERE, BUDDY!
I-I KNEW YOU'D GET HERE, SONIC!
NEVER ANY DOUBT, KIDDO!

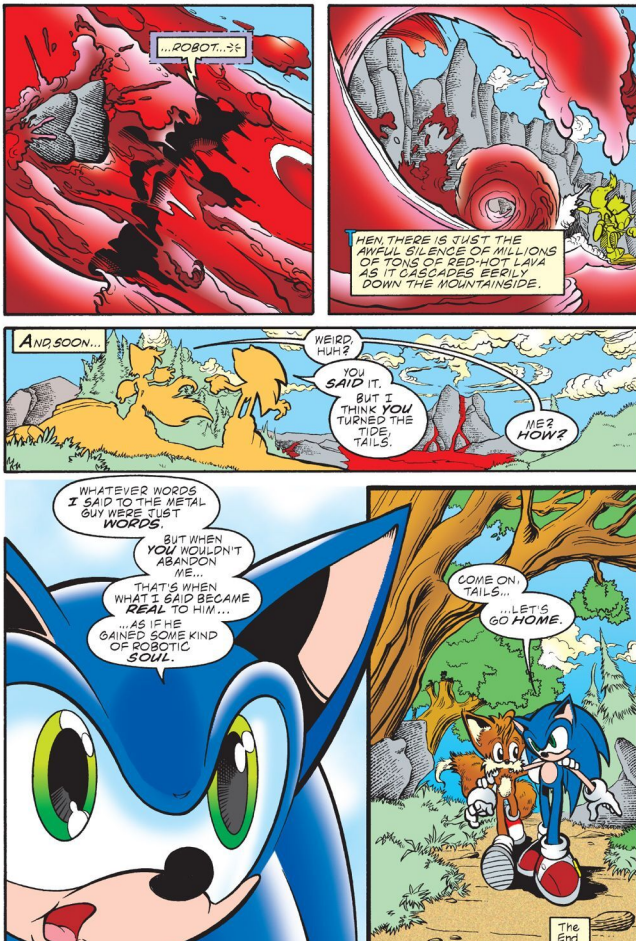

AWRIGHT! I HAVE CIRCULATION IN MY WRISTS AGAIN!
THAT LAVA'S CIRCULATING PRETTY GOOD, TOO!
WE BETTER MOVE FAST OR--
--OR METAL SONIC WILL GET FREE AND CATCH UP?
DID YOU REALLY THINK YOU'D STOPPED ME, SONIC?
NO MORE MIND GAMES, METAL MORONIC!
LET'S GET HIM, TAILS!
FWKAAM
FWKAAM
UHH!
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR A CHANCE TO TURN HIM INTO TALKING SCRAP!
GROW UP, TAILS! IT'S A CRUEL WORLD!
AAGH!
METAL SONIC... LISTEN TO ME...
I'M LISTENING TO YOUR MOANS OF PAIN... AND THOROUGHLY ENJOYING THEM.


LISTEN... I DO KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE A ROBOT. I WAS ONE.
BUT YOU GAVE UP THE GIFT, YOU FOOLISH HEDGEHOG!
BECAUSE I FOUGHT MY PROGRAMMING!
BECAUSE IT'S NOT WEAKNESS! A BEING'S FEELINGS, ITS SPIRIT, IS THE GREATEST THING THERE IS!
THE PRATTLING OF A DOOMED HEDGEHOG!
IT'S NO USE. YOU'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND!
BUT YOU WON'T WIN, EITHER.
YOU'RE RIGHT METAL SONIC. YOU ARE FASTER AND STRONGER THAN ME.
AS I'VE BEEN PROVING ALL DAY.
WHY WOULD I EMBRACE WEAKNESS WHEN I HAVE STRENGTH AND POWER?!
TAILS! I'M GONNA KEEP METAL-BRITCHES HERE BUSY! YOU FLY AWAY! NOW!
BUT WHAT GOOD DOES IT DO YOU? THERE'S MORE TO LIFE THAN THAT.
THERE'S FRIENDS AND FEELINGS AND JUST THE JOY OF BEING ALIVE!
NO WAY! I'M NOT LEAVIN' YOU!


THIS IS WHERE FEELINGS GET YOU. YOU'RE BOTH DOOMED, NOW!
NO, WE'RE NOT!
SO, YOU'RE DESERTING YOUR FRIEND AFTER ALL!
NO! I'M COMING TO BE AT HIS SIDE--
--SO WE CAN STOP YOU TOGETHER!
...
THE GROUND!
TAILS-- FLY AWAY BEFORE--
RRRUUUMMBL
TOO LATE! I'M TRAPPED!
THAT MAKES TWO OF US, LITTLE BUDDY!
KWUMP
BE BRAVE, TAILS!
YOU, TOO, SONIC!
YOU LEAVE ME NO CHOICE...


I'M FREE! THANKS TO... METAL-SONIC?!
THAT MAKES TWO OF US!
FWAAKAM
FWAAKAM
NO TIME TO ASK WHY! THE VOLCANO'S ERUPTING FULL FORCE! IT'S ALL LAVA ALL THE TIME!
GO! I'LL HOLD THE LAVA BACK FOR YOU!
HOW?
LIKE THIS!


SHOOOOOOSSH
NOW, GET OUT OF HERE-- BOTH OF YOU!
EVEN I CAN'T KEEP THIS UP ALL DAY!
THIS... THIS ISN'T A TRICK, IS IT?
YOU... YOU WERE RIGHT, SONIC.
I NEVER REALIZED ...UNTIL NOW...THAT I COULD BE MORE THAN MY PROGRAMMING...
...MORE THAN A ROBOT...BECAUSE I FELT COM-PASSION--
--NOW, GET OUT OF HERE!
SONIC--MY ROTOR-TAILS ARE HURT--I CAN'T FLY!
I GOT YA!
CAN'T WE SAVE METAL-SONIC, TOO?
NO, THAT WOULD DOOM US ALL! DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME! RE-MEMBER, I'M A ROBOT...
...A POWERFUL... UNFEELING...


...ROBOT...
THEN, THERE IS JUST THE AWFUL SILENCE OF MILLIONS OF TONS OF RED-HOT LAVA AS IT CASCADES EERILY DOWN THE MOUNTAINSIDE.
AND, SOON...
WEIRD, HUH?
YOU SAID IT. BUT I THINK YOU TURNED THE TIDE, TAILS.
ME? HOW?
WHATEVER WORDS I SAID TO THE METAL GUY WERE JUST WORDS.
BUT WHEN YOU WOULDN'T ABANDON ME...
THAT'S WHEN WHAT I SAID BECAME REAL TO HIM...
...AS IF HE GAINED SOME KIND OF ROBOTIC SOUL.
COME ON, TAILS...
...LET'S GO HOME.
The End

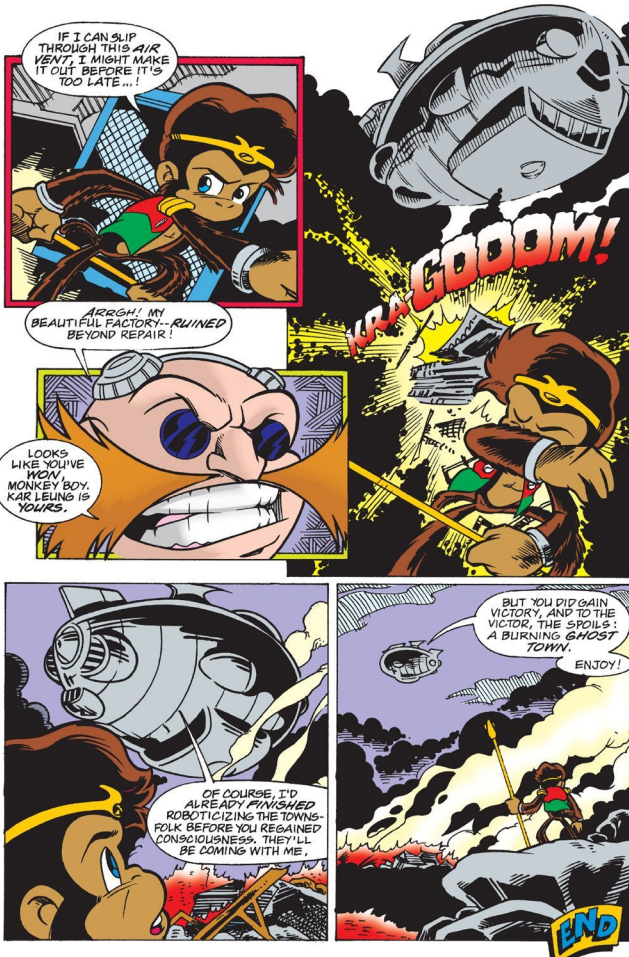
KAR LELING-- TEMPLE OF THE GOLDEN LOTUS...
AH, WHAT FOOLS THESE MONKEYS BE...!
Hahahahahaha! OH, DON'T LOOK SO SHOCKED--
MONKEY KHAN IN AGAINST THE HAUNTED PAST
PART TWO
--YOU DIDN'T THINK YOU COULD ACTUALLY EVADE ME FOREVER, DID YOU?
FRANK STROM WRITER/PENCILER
HARVO INKER
VICKIE WILLIAMS LETTERER
FRANK GAGLIARDO COLORIST
J.F. GABRIE WAZ HERE!
I FIGURED YOU'D BE TOO BUSY EATING TO NOTICE ME.
SILENCE, running dog!
CALL IT A HAPPY ACCIDENT. I WAS ALREADY IN THE MIDST OF INVADING KAR LELING, WHEN LO AND BEHOLD I FIND YOU, MY LONG FORGOTTEN PRODIGAL SON!

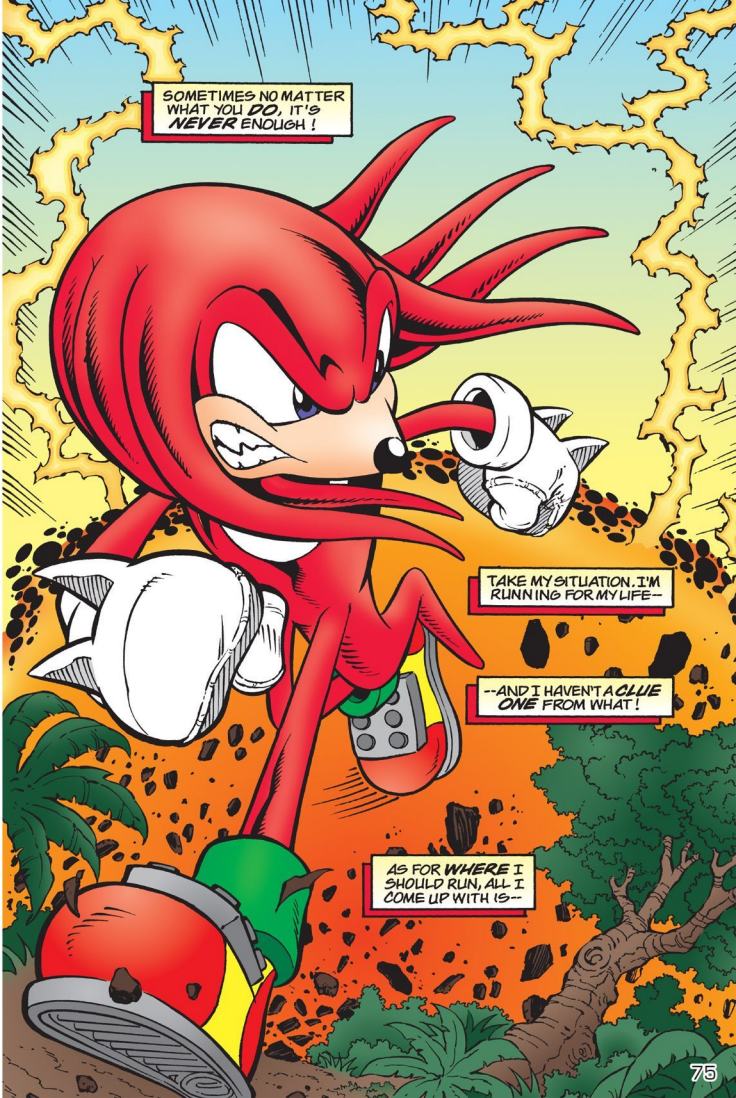
NATURALLY, I WAS FURIOUS TO LEARN SALLY ACORN HAD FREED YOU FROM MY CONTAINMENT CELL ...
...BUT THEN NOSTALGIA SET IN. YOU WERE, WITHOUT A DOUBT, MY FINEST CREATION!
ONE THAT COULD BE OF GREAT USE TO MY CAUSE, IF ONLY YOU COULD BE CONTROLLED.
WHICH BRINGS US TO THE TOPIC OF THE OPERATION! YOU MAY PROCEED, MY ROBOTICIZED GENERAL HUNN!
Aye, Lord Robotnik!
The procedure is horrifyingly simple...
...three microscopic transmitters fused to the brain should override any pesky free will...
AARRGGGHH!!!
FFZZZRRCH!
...allowing for total control of the Monkey Khan!

RRRUMBLE
KRAKA-KOOOM!
First transmitter secured, my lord.
EXCELLENT! THE LITTLE SIMIAN WILL SOON BE AS DOCILE AS...
KRAH-KOOM!
DON'T CONGRATULATE YOURSELF YET, RUSTBUCKET!
I'M NOT ABOUT TO SIT STILL WHILE YOU TAKE AWAY MY BASIC FREEDOMS!
GOOD GRAVY! WHERE DID THIS POWER COME FROM? HE WAS STRONG BEFORE, BUT NOT...!
THE SECRET'S IN THE POWER RING HEADBAND, TUBBY--
--IT ACTS AS A SUPER BATTERY FOR MY CYBERNETIC...
uh-oh.

Hahaha! SWATBOTS? IS THAT THE BEST YOU CAN DO? I EAT GUYS LIKE THIS FOR BREAKFAST NOW!
FWUMP!
GRRR! OUTDATED OLD TIN CANS! HAVEN'T WE GOT ANYTHING BETTER, HUNN?
SEND IN REINFORCEMENTS! STOP HIM! STOP HIM!
THAT'S MY CUE TO VAMOOSE...!
ROBOTNIK'S REALLY SET UP SHOP HERE--TURNED THE WHOLE TEMPLE INTO A FACTORY FOR HIS ROBOTICIZATION MACHINERY!
HE'LL ROBOTICIZE ALL OF KAR LELING IF I DON'T PUT A STOP TO IT FAST!
POWER
ZZARK!
GOT TA FIND THE POWER CENTER BEFORE THESE 'BOTS FRY ME TO A CRISP!
ZZOWISH!

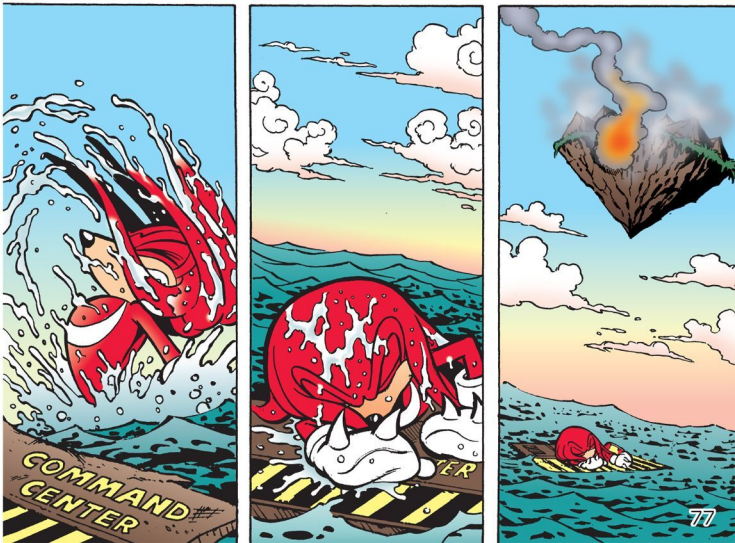
HURRRRMMMMMM
BINGO! THE CORE GENERATOR--THE HEART OF THE ENTIRE FACTORY!
The monkey's found the POWER CENTER, my lord! What should we do?
SEND MORE SWATBOTS AFTER HIM, YOU BOOB! BUT TELL THOSE IDIOTS TO BE CAREFUL...
"...THE GENERATOR EQUIPMENT IS HIGHLY VOLATILE!"
LESSEE--HOW TO DISABLE THIS BABY WITHOUT CAUSING A...?
ZZZORGH
ZOWWWW
HERE THEY COME--LIKE BULLS IN A NUCLEAR CHINA SHOP!
FWOOOM!
THOSE FOOLS HIT THE GENERATOR! THE WHOLE PLACE IS GONNA BLOW SKY HIGH!!

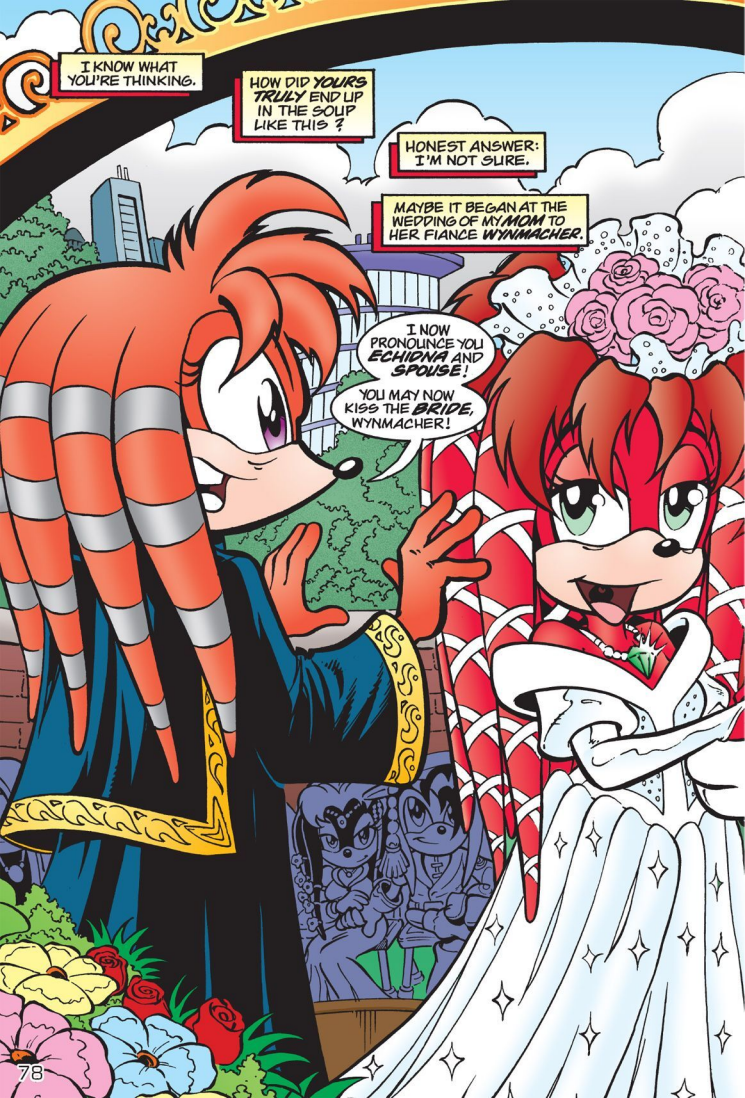

IF I CAN SLIP THROUGH THIS AIR VENT, I MIGHT MAKE IT OUT BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE...!
KRA-GOOOM!
ARRGH! MY BEAUTIFUL FACTORY--RUINED BEYOND REPAIR!
LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE WON, MONKEY BOY. KAR LELING IS YOURS.
OF COURSE, I'D ALREADY FINISHED ROBOTICIZING THE TOWNSFOLK BEFORE YOU REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS. THEY'LL BE COMING WITH ME.
BUT YOU DID GAIN VICTORY, AND TO THE VICTOR, THE SPOILS: A BURNING GHOST TOWN.
ENJOY!
END


SOMETIMES NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO, IT'S NEVER ENOUGH!
TAKE MY SITUATION. I'M RUNNING FOR MY LIFE--
--AND I HAVEN'T A CLUE ONE FROM WHAT!
AS FOR WHERE I SHOULD RUN, ALL I COME UP WITH IS--

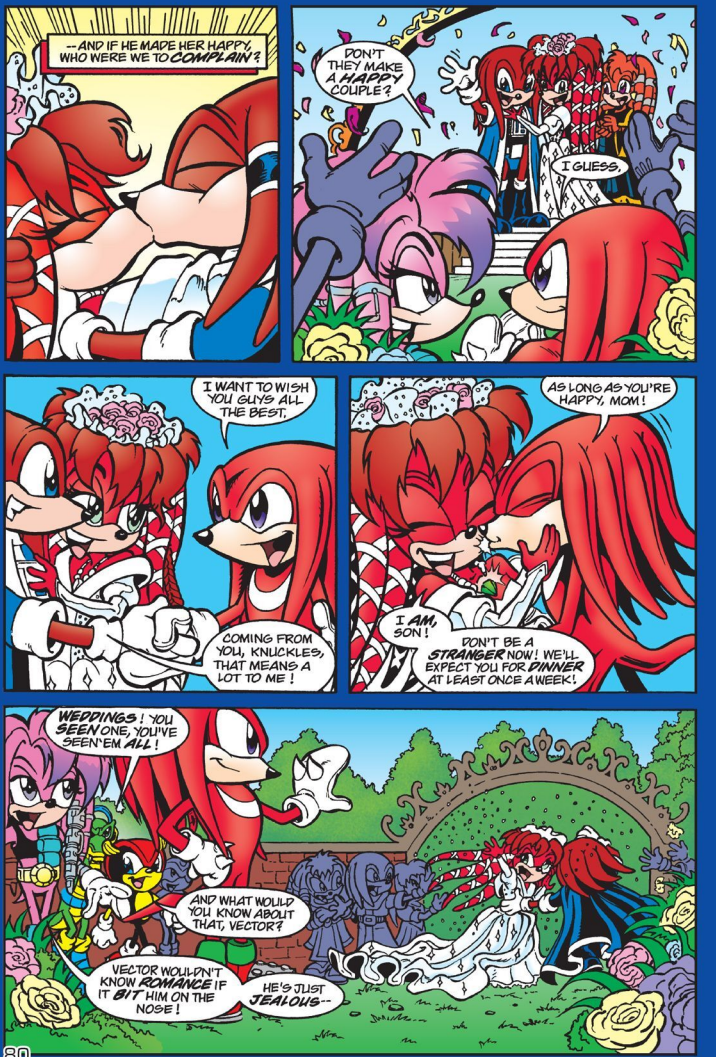
--IS ANYWHERE BUT HERE!
I'M RUNNING OUT OF FLOORSPACE--FAST!
GUESS I HAVE TO TAKE MY CHANCES!
IT FIGURES! WE'RE OVER AN OCEAN!
HECKUVA CHOICE--GET ZAPPED OR DROWN!
UGH!!

SPLAAASH!!!


COMMAND CENTER

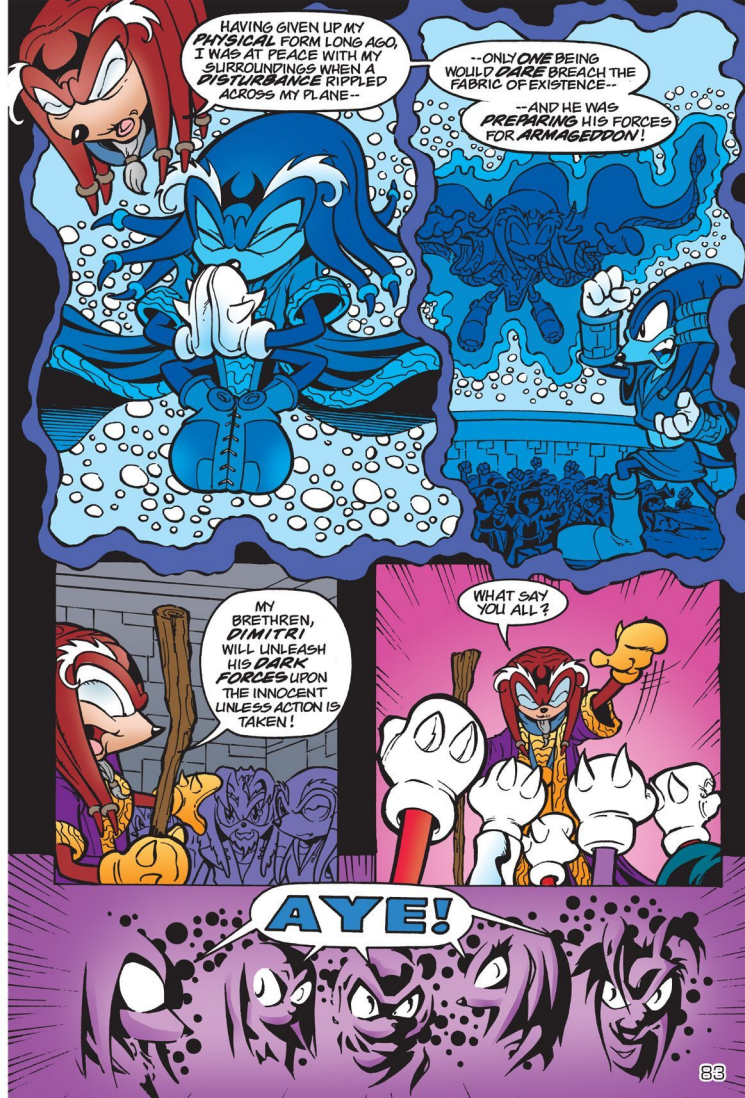

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING.
HOW DID YOURS TRULY END UP IN THE SOUP LIKE THIS ?
HONEST ANSWER: I'M NOT SURE.
MAYBE IT BEGAN AT THE WEDDING OF MY MOM TO HER FIANCE WYNMACHER.
I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU ECHIDNA AND SPOUSE!
YOU MAY NOW KISS THE BRIDE, WYNMACHER!

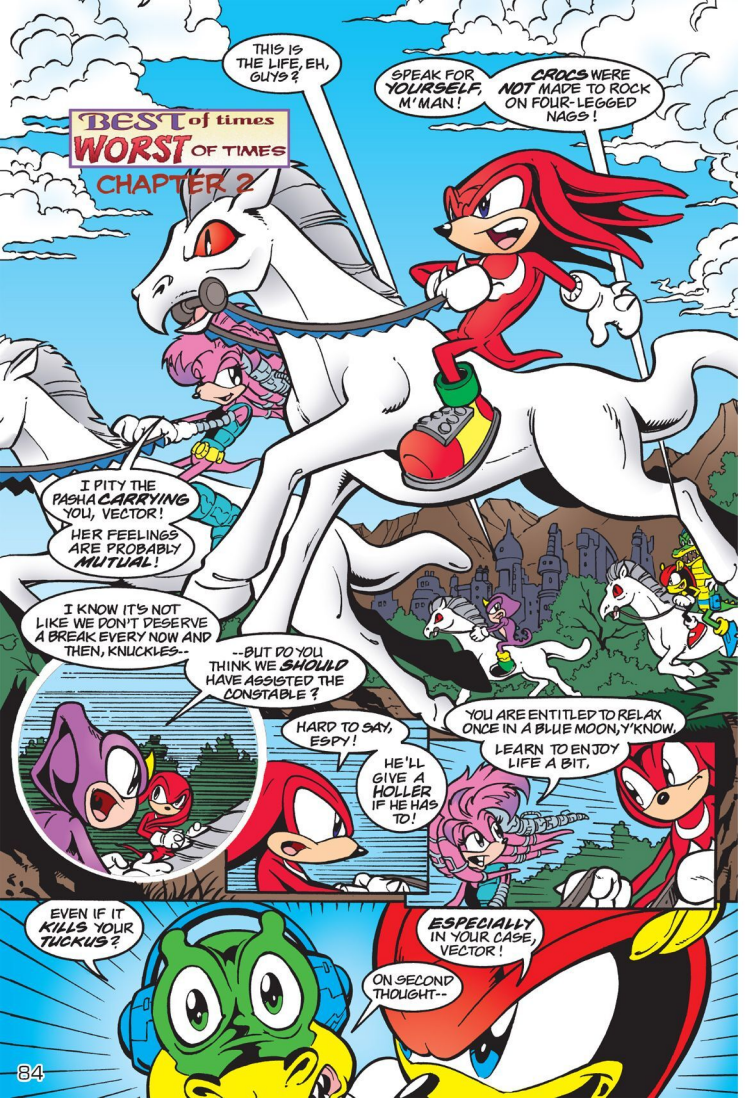
KNUCKLES™
THE ECHIDNA
IN
BEST of times
WORST OF TIMES
CHAPTER 1
DAD AND I WEREN'T WILD OVER MOM REMARRYING, BUT WYN WASN'T A BAD GUY--


--AND IF HE MADE HER HAPPY, WHO WERE WE TO COMPLAIN?
DON'T THEY MAKE A HAPPY COUPLE?
I GUESS.
I WANT TO WISH YOU GUYS ALL THE BEST.
COMING FROM YOU, KNUCKLES, THAT MEANS A LOT TO ME!
AS LONG AS YOU'RE HAPPY, MOM!
I AM, SON!
DON'T BE A STRANGER NOW! WE'LL EXPECT YOU FOR DINNER AT LEAST ONCE A WEEK!
WEDDINGS! YOU SEEN ONE, YOU'VE SEEN 'EM ALL!
AND WHAT WOULD YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT, VECTOR?
VECTOR WOULDN'T KNOW ROMANCE IF IT BIT HIM ON THE NOSE!
HE'S JUST JEALOUS--

--'CAUSE KNUCKLES HAS ME!
IN YOUR DREAMS!
I'D SAY THE EVIDENCE FAVORS JULIE-SU ON THIS ONE, VECTOR!
LOOKS LIKE WEDDINGS BRING OUT THE SPIRIT IN EVERYONE!
CHECK OUT THE CONSTABLE!
CONSTABLE REMINGTON! GREAT TO SEE YOU!
I WOULDN'T MISS THIS FOR ANYTHING, GUARDIAN!
ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MY FRIEND, KOMI-KO!
OH, DRAT! I TOLD THEM NOT TO PAGE ME UNLESS IT WAS IMPORTANT!
BEEP BEEP BEEP
THIS IS REMINGTON! GO AHEAD!
SO, HOW DID YOU AND THE CONSTABLE MEET, KOMI-KO?
BLAST! IT DOESN'T TAKE MUCH TO MUCK UP A GOOD PARTY!
I'M SORRY, BUT I HAVE TO GO!
DO YOU NEED ANY HELP?

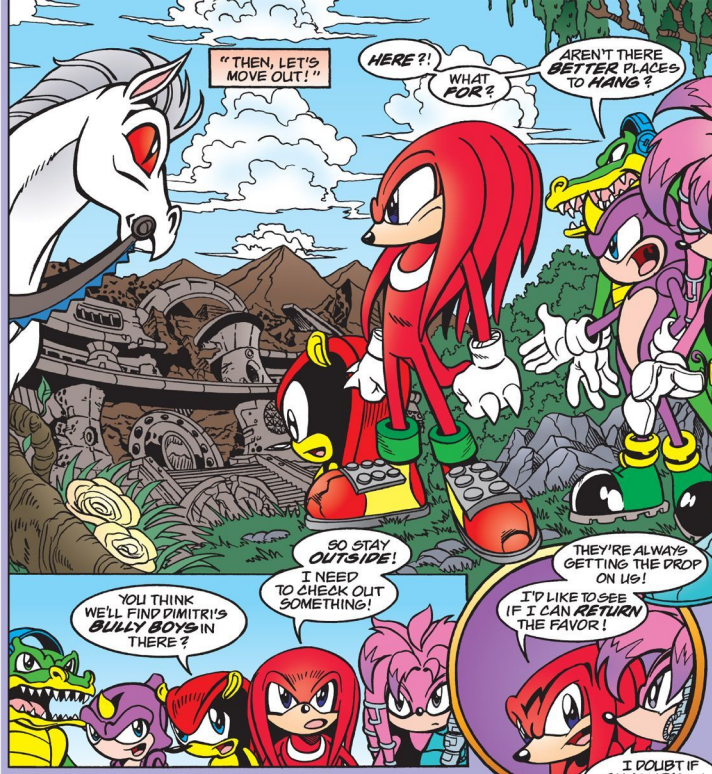
"I'LL SIGNAL IF I DO!"
GRANDFATHER MATHIAS!
IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE YOU WERE LAST HERE!
I HOPE I HAVEN'T KEPT YOU WAITING!
EVEN IF YOU HAD, THE CONCEPT OF TIME IS IRRELEVANT TO ONE SUCH AS I!
UNFORTUNATELY, THE SAME CAN'T BE SAID FOR THE REST OF YOU!


HAVING GIVEN UP MY PHYSICAL FORM LONG AGO, I WAS AT PEACE WITH MY SURROUNDINGS WHEN A DISTURBANCE RIPPLED ACROSS MY PLANE--
--ONLY ONE BEING WOULD DARE BREACH THE FABRIC OF EXISTENCE--
--AND HE WAS PREPARING HIS FORCES FOR ARMAGEDDON!
MY BRETHREN, DIMITRI WILL UNLEASH HIS DARK FORCES UPON THE INNOCENT UNLESS ACTION IS TAKEN!
WHAT SAY YOU ALL?
AYE!

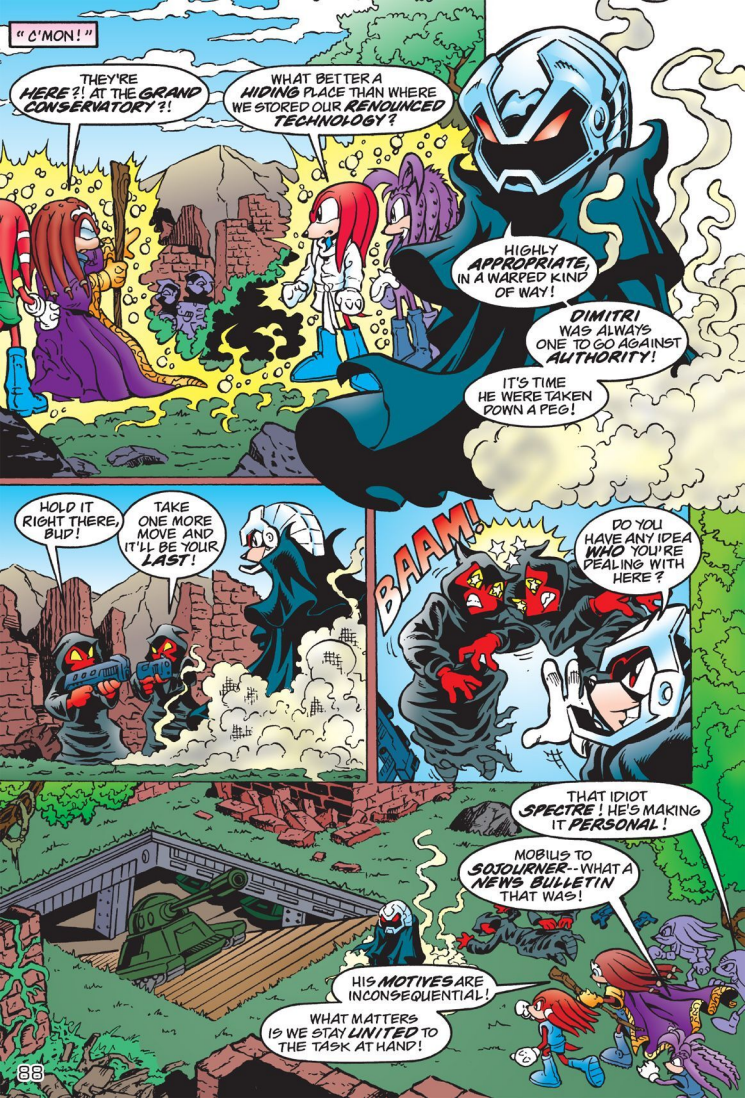

BEST of times
WORST OF TIMES
CHAPTER 2
THIS IS THE LIFE, EH, GUYS?
SPEAK FOR YOURSELF, M'MAN!
CROCS WERE NOT MADE TO ROCK ON FOUR-LEGGED NAGS!
I PITY THE PASHA CARRYING YOU, VECTOR!
HER FEELINGS ARE PROBABLY MUTUAL!
I KNOW IT'S NOT LIKE WE DON'T DESERVE A BREAK EVERY NOW AND THEN, KNUCKLES--
--BUT DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD HAVE ASSISTED THE CONSTABLE?
HARD TO SAY, ESPY!
HE'LL GIVE A HOLLER IF HE HAS TO!
YOU ARE ENTITLED TO RELAX ONCE IN A BLUE MOON, Y'KNOW.
LEARN TO ENJOY LIFE A BIT,
EVEN IF IT KILLS YOUR TUCKUS?
ESPECIALLY IN YOUR CASE, VECTOR!
ON SECOND THOUGHT--

"--I SHOULD'VE STAYED IN THE CITY..."
I'LL CALL YOU LATER!
I HOPE SO! TAKE CARE!
SIGHS
DUTY CALLS ONCE AGAIN!
AND SINCE MISERY LOVES COMPANY--
TAP! TAP! TAP!
GO AWAY!
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO SERVICE WITH A SMILE, HARRY?
YOU'RE NOT MY IDEA OF AN EASY FARE, REMINGTON!
A GUY COULD GET HURT HANGIN' WITH YOU!
NO HEROICS, HARRY! JUST TAKE ME TO THE STATION!
ARE YOU OUT TA YOUR MIND?!!
THAT'S ONE PLACE IT AIN'T HEALTHY TO GO NEAR!
REALLY! WHO SAID?
A LITTLE BIRDY!
VON STRYKER'S GOTTEN TIRED OF WAITIN' FOR THE HIGH ECHIDNA POOBAHS TO MAKE GOOD--

--SO HE INTENDS TO RALLY THE DINGOES FOR ONE HUMONGOUS PROTEST!
WHAT AN IDIOT!
YOU'RE TELLING ME?!
THE HIGH COUNCIL IS ON THE VERGE OF ANNOUNCING A SOLID PLAN OF ACTION!
HE GOES THROUGH WITH IT AND HE'LL JEOPARDIZE EVERYTHING!
KEYWORDS, "ON THE VERGE."
I KNOW, HARRY, BUT I'VE BEEN PERSONALLY FOLLOWING UP ON THIS ONE!
YOU'RE TALKING POLITICIANS HERE!
ANYWAY, THANKS FOR THE RIDE!
WHAT DO I OWE YOU?
SKIP IT! YOU NEVER SAW ME TODAY!
TAXI
MONTHS OF NEGOTIATION DOWN THE TUBES JUST LIKE THAT!
HERE'S HOPING I CAN TALK SENSE INTO VON STRYKER!
EVERYONE ALL SET?


"THEN, LET'S MOVE OUT!"
HERE?!
WHAT FOR?
AREN'T THERE BETTER PLACES TO HANG?
SO STAY OUTSIDE!
I NEED TO CHECK OUT SOMETHING!
YOU THINK WE'LL FIND DIMITRI'S BULLY BOYS IN THERE?
THEY'RE ALWAYS GETTING THE DROP ON US!
I'D LIKE TO SEE IF I CAN RETURN THE FAVOR!
I DOUBT IF ANYONE'S IN THERE NOW!

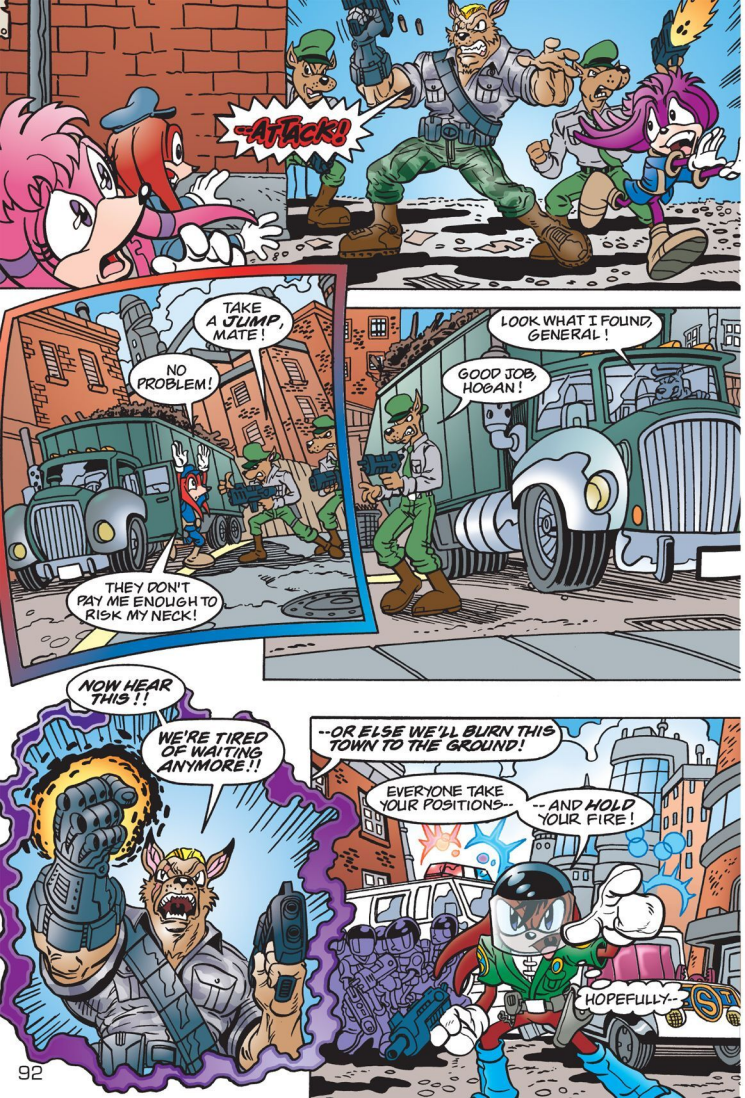
*CHECK OUT THE JULIE-SU STORY IN SONIC SELECT BOOK 5 FOR THE FULL SCOOP!--EDITOR

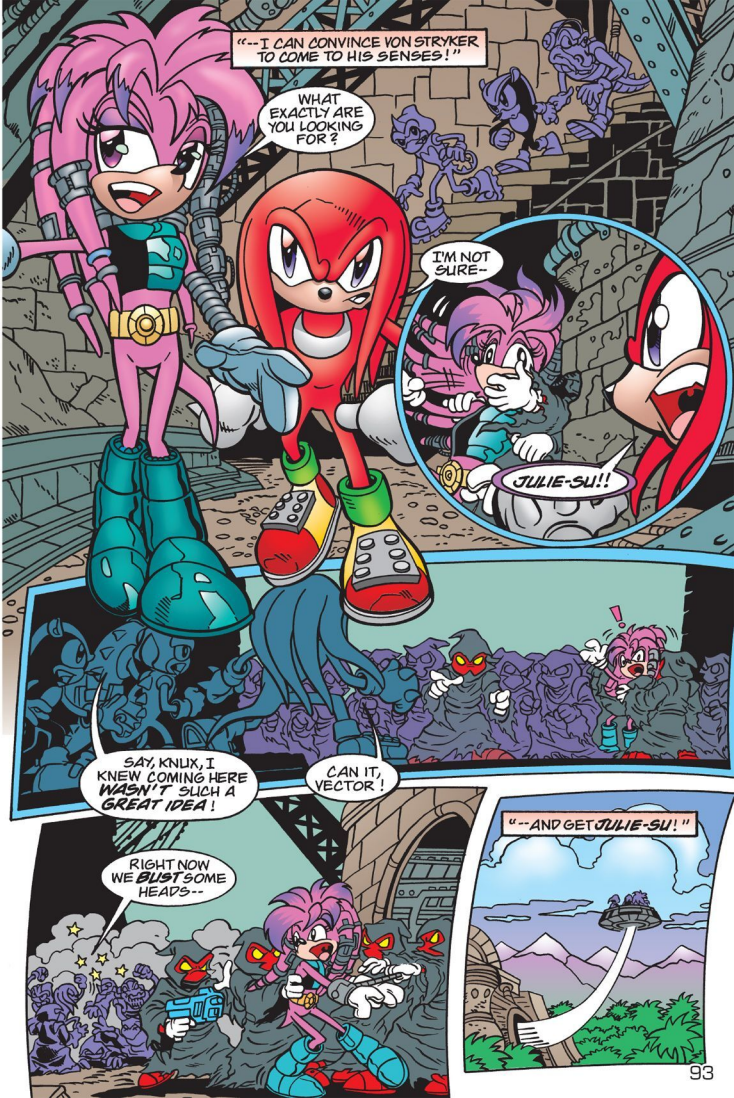

"C'MON!"
THEY'RE HERE?! AT THE GRAND CONSERVATORY?!
WHAT BETTER A HIDING PLACE THAN WHERE WE STORED OUR RENOUNCED TECHNOLOGY?
HIGHLY APPROPRIATE, IN A WARPED KIND OF WAY!
DIMITRI WAS ALWAYS ONE TO GO AGAINST AUTHORITY!
IT'S TIME HE WERE TAKEN DOWN A PEG!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, BUD!
TAKE ONE MORE MOVE AND IT'LL BE YOUR LAST!
BAAM!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHO YOU'RE DEALING WITH HERE?
THAT IDIOT SPECTRE! HE'S MAKING IT PERSONAL!
MOBIUS TO SOJOURNER--WHAT A NEWS BULLETIN THAT WAS!
HIS MOTIVES ARE INCONSEQUENTIAL!
WHAT MATTERS IS WE STAY UNITED TO THE TASK AT HAND!

NOW--
JOIN!
THE TRUCK! IT'S STARTING TO TIP!
DITCH IT!
KHAARHOOOM!
EVERYONE OUT! MAKE FOR THE EMERGENCY EXITS!
"ETA IS NOW FOUR MINUTES--

--UNTIL ARRIVAL AT THE ALBION CHALET!
BEST of times
WORST OF TIMES
CHAPTER 3
BRRRRRROARRRR!
HERE YOU GO, MY GOOD MAN!
OH, WYN--
--IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL HERE!
IT'S ONLY JUST THE BEGINNING, DARLING!
AFTER ALL--

"--WE HAVE ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD!"
SINCE THE TREACHEROUS ECHIDNA REFUSE TO TAKE US SERIOUSLY--
--WE'LL GIVE THEM MORE THAN ENOUGH REASONS BEFORE WE'RE THROUGH!
EVERYONE SET? THEN, LET'S MOVE OUT!
WHAT ABOUT REMINGTON?
HE HAD HIS CHANCE--
--BESIDES, HE'S MERELY A HIRED FLUNKY!
SAFETY'S OFF!
UPON MY COMMAND--

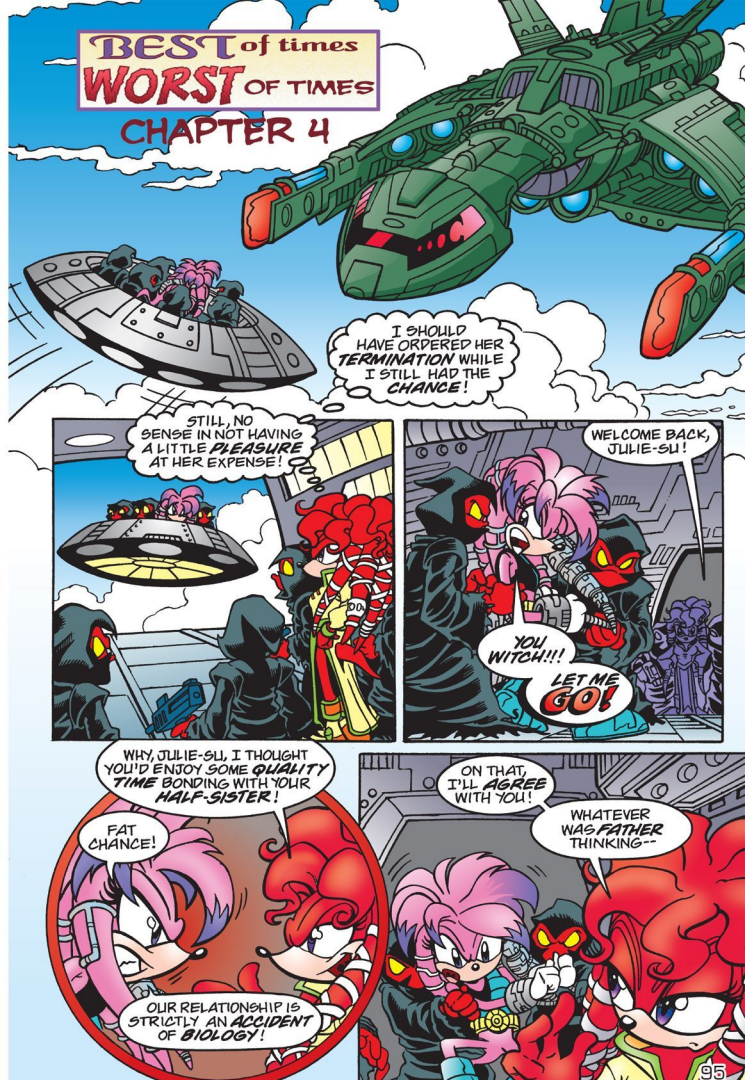

--ATTACK!
TAKE A JUMP, MATE!
NO PROBLEM!
THEY DON'T PAY ME ENOUGH TO RISK MY NECK!
LOOK WHAT I FOUND, GENERAL!
GOOD JOB, HOGAN!
NOW HEAR THIS!!
WE'RE TIRED OF WAITING ANYMORE!!
--OR ELSE WE'LL BURN THIS TOWN TO THE GROUND!
EVERYONE TAKE YOUR POSITIONS--
--AND HOLD YOUR FIRE!
HOPEFULLY--

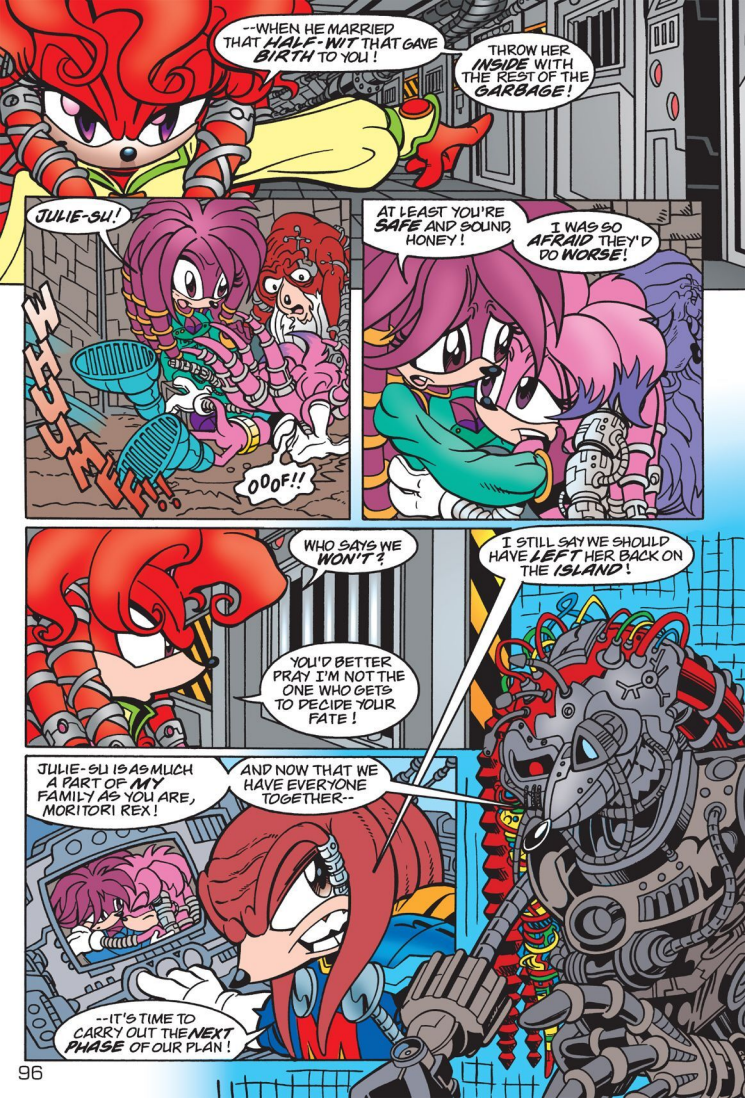

"--I CAN CONVINCE VON STRYKER TO COME TO HIS SENSES!"
WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?
I'M NOT SURE--
JULIE-SU!!
SAY, KNUX, I KNEW COMING HERE WASN'T SUCH A GREAT IDEA!
CAN IT, VECTOR!
RIGHT NOW WE BUST SOME HEADS--
"--AND GET JULIE-SU!"

IT IS TIME, HAWKING!
STEPPENWOLF--?
WHAT ABOUT THE OTHERS?
THEY WILL ENDURE!
IT IS NOW TIME YOU JOIN WITH THE REST OF US!

BEST of times WORST OF TIMES

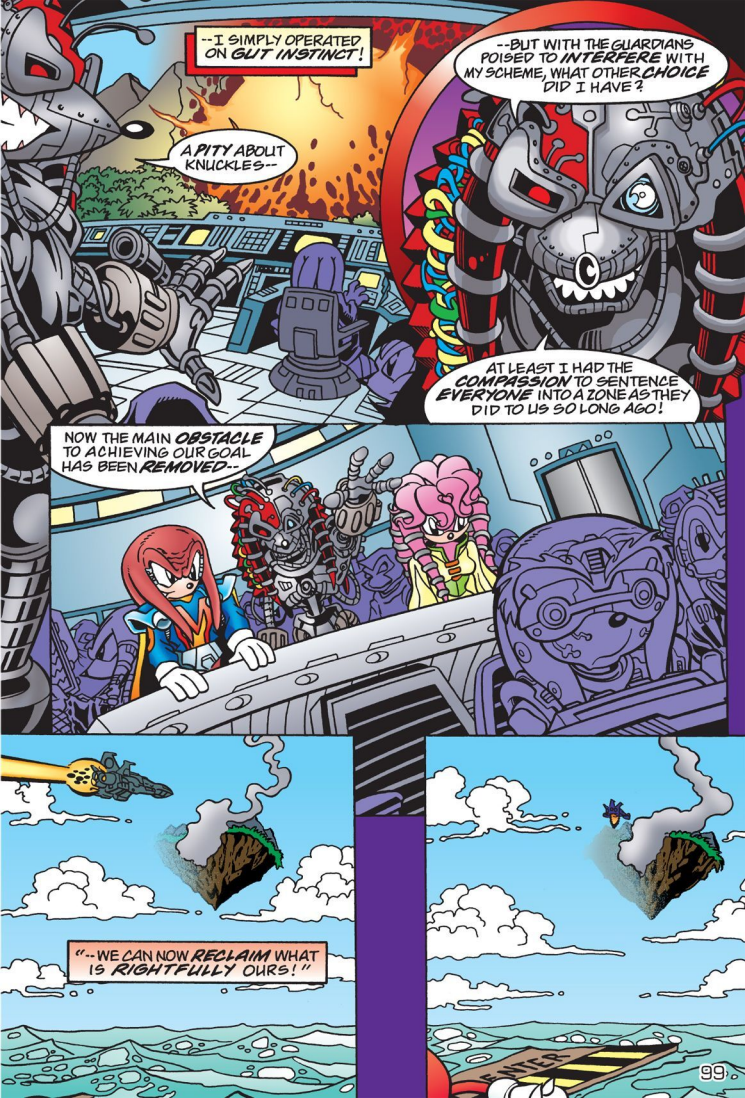
CHAPTER 4


I SHOULD HAVE ORDERED HER TERMINATION WHILE I STILL HAD THE CHANCE!
STILL, NO SENSE IN NOT HAVING A LITTLE PLEASURE AT HER EXPENSE!
WELCOME BACK, JULIE-SU!
YOU, WITCH!!!
LET ME GO!
WHY, JULIE-SU, I THOUGHT YOU'D ENTOY SOME QUALITY TIME BONDING WITH YOUR HALF-SISTER!
FAT CHANCE!
OUR RELATIONSHIP IS STRICTLY AN ACCIDENT OF BIOLOGY!
ON THAT, I'LL AGREE WITH YOU!
WHATEVER WAS FATHER THINKING--


--WHEN HE MARRIED THAT HALF-WIT THAT GAVE BIRTH TO YOU!
THROW HER INSIDE WITH THE REST OF THE GARBAGE!
JULIE-SU!
KABOOM!!
OOOF!!
AT LEAST YOU'RE SAFE AND SOUND, HONEY!
I WAS SO AFRAID THEY'D DO WORSE!
WHO SAYS WE WON'T?
I STILL SAY WE SHOULD HAVE LEFT HER BACK ON THE ISLAND!
YOU'D BETTER PRAY I'M NOT THE ONE WHO GETS TO DECIDE YOUR FATE!
JULIE-SU IS AS MUCH A PART OF MY FAMILY AS YOU ARE, MORITORI REX!
AND NOW THAT WE HAVE EVERYONE TOGETHER--
--IT'S TIME TO CARRY OUT THE NEXT PHASE OF OUR PLAN!

"ACTIVATE THE QUANTUM BEAM!"
GET OUT OF THE WAY!
WHAT KIND OF DIABOLICAL ECHIDNA TRICK IS THIS?

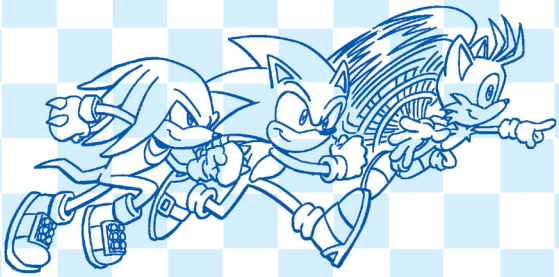
STAND FIRM--
HEY!!
WHAT THE...?
THEY PULLED A FAST ONE!
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THE DARK LEGION WOULD DO WHATEVER IT TAKES--
--EVEN IF THEY HAD TO SACRIFICE THEIR OWN TO DO SO!
AS FOR ME--


--I SIMPLY OPERATED ON GUT INSTINCT!
A PITY ABOUT KNUCKLES--
--BUT WITH THE GUARDIANS POISED TO INTERFERE WITH MY SCHEME, WHAT OTHER CHOICE DID I HAVE?
AT LEAST I HAD THE COMPASSION TO SENTENCE EVERYONE INTO A ZONE AS THEY DID TO US SO LONG AGO!
NOW THE MAIN OBSTACLE TO ACHIEVING OUR GOAL HAS BEEN REMOVED--
"--WE CAN NOW RECLAIM WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY OURS!"
WATER

THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES IN SONIC ARCHIVES VOL. 24, AS WE AND KNUCKLES EMBARK ON...
THE ROAD TO ALBION

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG™

Welcome to a brief who's who of the Sonic universe. You have just read some of the earliest and most loved stories from the Sonic comic. We thought you'd like to learn a little extra about a few of our favorite Sonic characters!



SILVER SONIC V2.0

Built for power and resilience, this model of Silver Sonic has more brains and attitude than the previous version. With the added speed, this version is almost unstoppable!

METAL SONIC V2.5

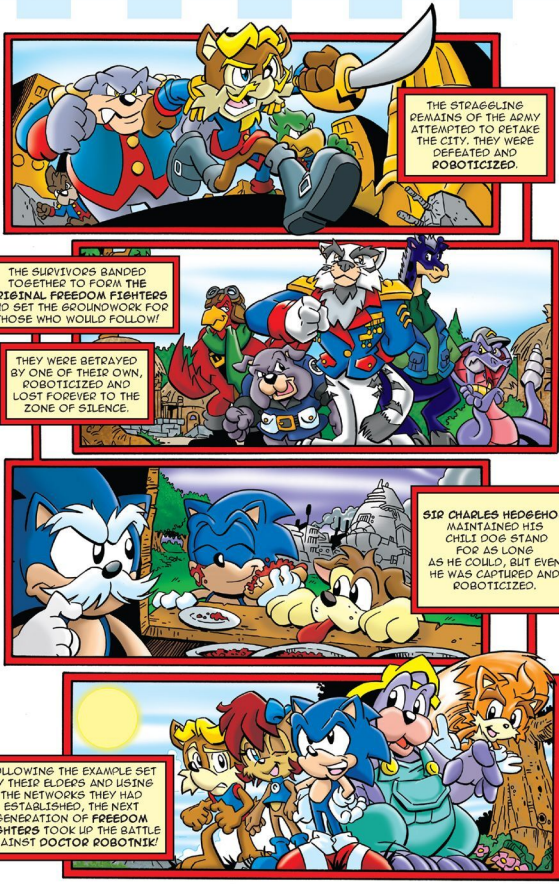
Fueled by a power gem core, this is the same Metal Sonic who lost to Sonic in the Collision Chaos Zone and to Knuckles on Angel Island. With a morphing weapon arm and battle experience, this could be the ultimate version of Metal Sonic!

MOBIUS TIMELINE

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE HISTORY OF EVENTS IN THE SONIC THE HEDGEHOG COMICS!

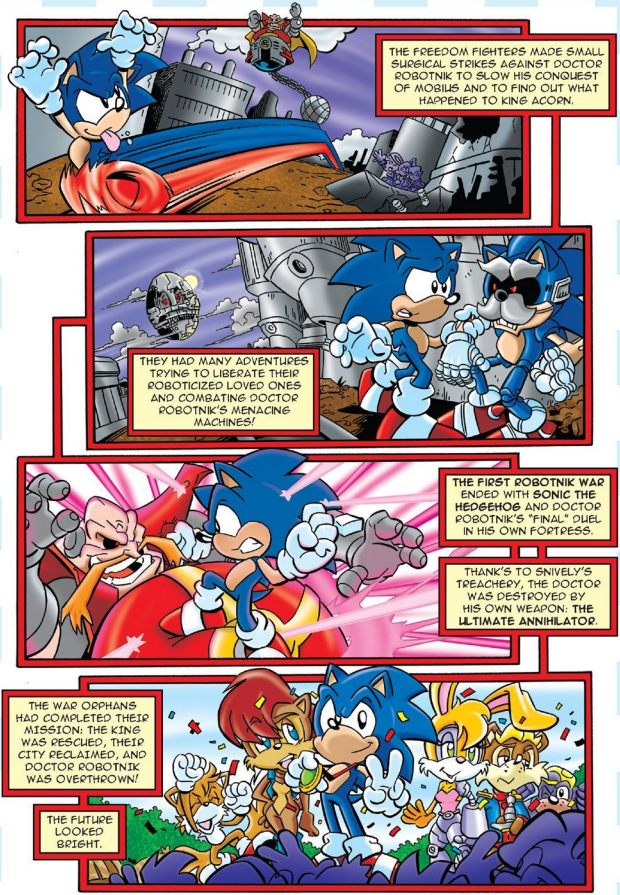
JULIAN'S COUP

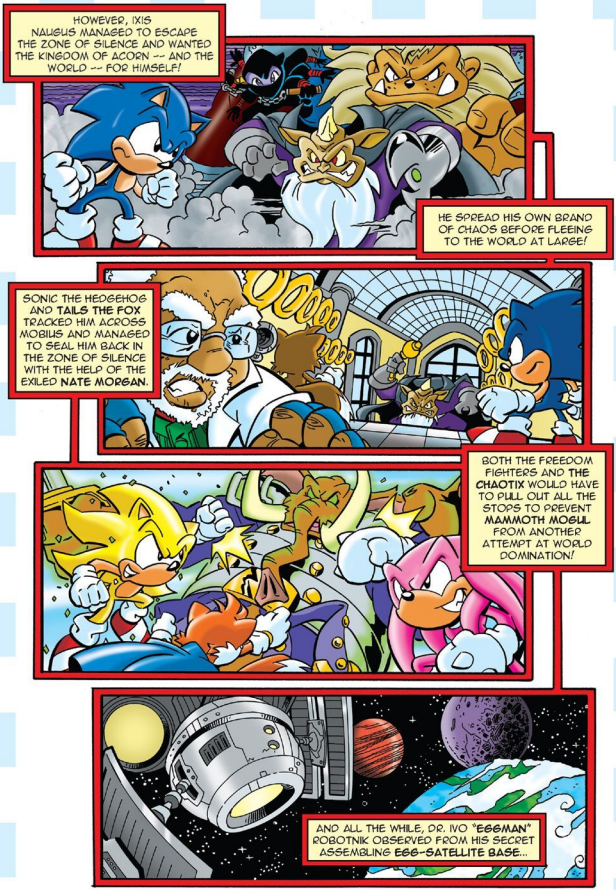
DURING THE BRIEF YEAR OF PEACE, JULIAN SAW TO IT THAT FORMER-WARLORD KODOS AND FORMER-ROYAL WIZARD IXIS NAUGUS WERE TRAPPED IN THE ZONE OF SILENCE.
WITH HIS NEPHEW, SNIVELY, AT HIS SIDE HE PREPARED HIS COUP D'ÉTAT!
BECOMING DOCTOR IVO ROBOTNIK, HE USED THE TECHNOLOGICAL GIFTS HE HAD GIVEN TO HIS HOST COUNTRY TO SEIZE IT FROM WITHIN.
KING MAXIMILLIAN ACORN WAS BANISHED TO THE ZONE OF SILENCE.
ONLY A HANDFUL OF THE ROYAL COURT MANAGED TO ESCAPE.
MOSTLY THE WOMEN, CHILDREN AND CIVILIANS MANAGED TO ESCAPE THE INITIAL TAKEOVER.
THEY HID OUT IN THE SECLUDED VILLAGE OF KNOTHOLE, ORIGINALLY MEANT AS A RETREAT FOR THE ROYAL FAMILY.


THE STRAGGLING REMAINS OF THE ARMY ATTEMPTED TO RETAKE THE CITY. THEY WERE DEFEATED AND ROBOTICIZED.
THE SURVIVORS BANDED TOGETHER TO FORM THE ORIGINAL FREEDOM FIGHTERS AND SET THE GROUNDWORK FOR THOSE WHO WOULD FOLLOW!
THEY WERE BETRAYED BY ONE OF THEIR OWN, ROBOTICIZED AND LOST FOREVER TO THE ZONE OF SILENCE.
SIR CHARLES HEDGEHOG MAINTAINED HIS CHILI DOG STAND FOR AS LONG AS HE COULD, BUT EVEN HE WAS CAPTURED AND ROBOTICIZED.
FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE SET BY THEIR ELDERS AND USING THE NETWORKS THEY HAD ESTABLISHED, THE NEXT GENERATION OF FREEDOM FIGHTERS TOOK UP THE BATTLE AGAINST DOCTOR ROBOTNIK!

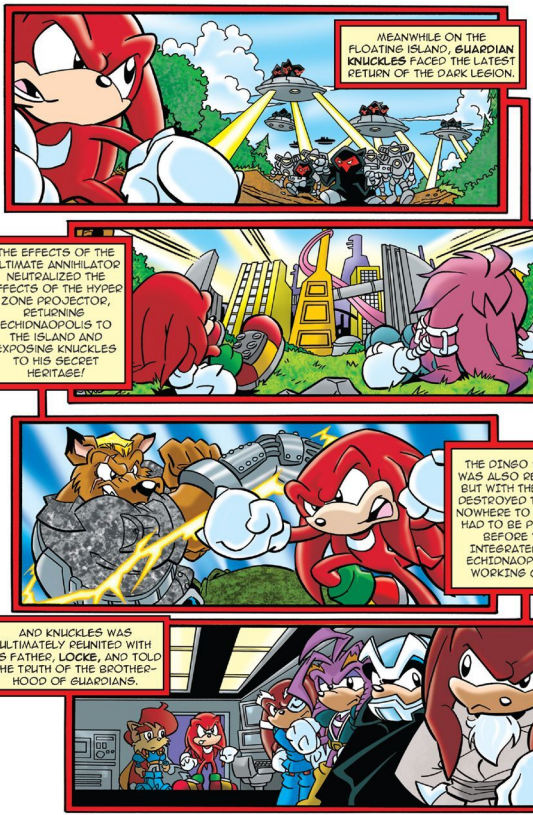
MOBIUS TIMELINE

THE FIRST ROBOTNIK WAR


THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS MADE SMALL SURGICAL STRIKES AGAINST DOCTOR ROBOTNIK TO SLOW HIS CONQUEST OF MOBIUS AND TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO KING ACORN.
THEY HAD MANY ADVENTURES TRYING TO LIBERATE THEIR ROBOTICIZED LOVED ONES AND COMBATING DOCTOR ROBOTNIK'S MENACING MACHINES!
THE FIRST ROBOTNIK WAR ENDED WITH SONIC THE HEDGEHOG AND DOCTOR ROBOTNIK'S "FINAL" DUEL IN HIS OWN FORTRESS.
THANK'S TO SNIVELY'S TREACHERY, THE DOCTOR WAS DESTROYED BY HIS OWN WEAPON: THE ULTIMATE ANNIHILATOR.
THE WAR ORPHANS HAD COMPLETED THEIR MISSION: THE KING WAS RESCUED, THEIR CITY RECLAIMED, AND DOCTOR ROBOTNIK WAS OVERTHROWN!
THE FUTURE LOOKED BRIGHT.

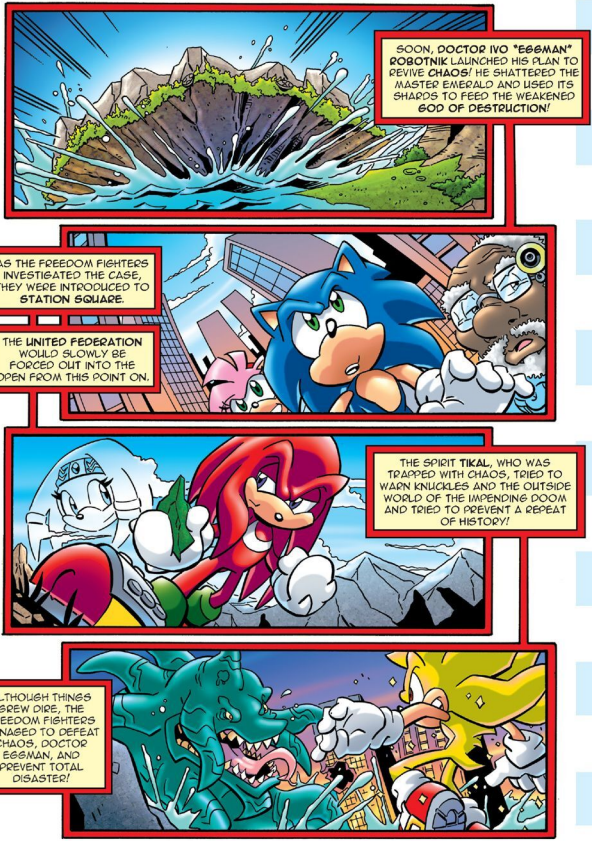

HOWEVER, IXIS NAUGUS MANAGED TO ESCAPE THE ZONE OF SILENCE AND WANTED THE KINGDOM OF ACORN -- AND THE WORLD -- FOR HIMSELF!
HE SPREAD HIS OWN BRAND OF CHAOS BEFORE FLEEING TO THE WORLD AT LARGE!
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG AND TAILS THE FOX TRACKED HIM ACROSS MOBIUS AND MANAGED TO SEAL HIM BACK IN THE ZONE OF SILENCE WITH THE HELP OF THE EXILED NATE MORGAN.
BOTH THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS AND THE CHAOTIX WOULD HAVE TO PULL OUT ALL THE STOPS TO PREVENT MAMMOTH MOGUL FROM ANOTHER ATTEMPT AT WORLD DOMINATION!
AND ALL THE WHILE, DR. IVO "EGGMAN" ROBOTNIK OBSERVED FROM HIS SECRET ASSEMBLING EGG-SATELLITE BASE...

THE RETURN OF ECHIDNAOPOLIS!


MEANWHILE ON THE FLOATING ISLAND, GUARDIAN KNUCKLES FACED THE LATEST RETURN OF THE DARK LEGION.
THE EFFECTS OF THE ULTIMATE ANNIHILATOR NEUTRALIZED THE EFFECTS OF THE HYPER ZONE PROJECTOR, RETURNING ECHIDNAOPOLIS TO THE ISLAND AND EXPOSING KNUCKLES TO HIS SECRET HERITAGE!
THE DINGO REGIME WAS ALSO RETURNED, BUT WITH THEIR CITY DESTROYED THEY HAD NOWHERE TO GO. THEY HAD TO BE PACIFIED BEFORE THEY INTEGRATED INTO ECHIDNAOPOLIS'S WORKING CLASS.
AND KNUCKLES WAS ULTIMATELY REUNITED WITH HIS FATHER, LOCKE, AND TOLD THE TRUTH OF THE BROTHERHOOD OF GUARDIANS.

KNUCKLES ALSO LEARNED OF THE LOST TRIBE — ECHIDNAOPOLIS CITIZENS WHO SPENT GENERATIONS SEARCHING FOR THEIR HOMELAND OF ALBION.
THE GUARDIAN ALSO ASSISTED THEIR SPIRITUAL MITRE & YANAR, IN ESCORTING THE LOST TRIBE THROUGH MERCIA AND TEAMED UP WITH THE ARCHER HERO ROB O' THE HEDGE!
EVENTUALLY THEY REACHED THE HIDDEN CITY OF ALBION WHERE THE LOST TRIBE FINALLY SETTLED AFTER THEIR LONG EXODUS.
KNUCKLES RETURNED TO THE FLOATING ISLAND TO WATCH IT AND ITS NEW MASTER EMERALD, WHICH CONTAINED THE SPIRIT OF THE DEFEATED MAMMOTH MOGUL...

THE SECOND ROBOTNIK WAR BEGAN WHEN DOCTOR ROBOTNIK MARK II TRAVELED FROM A PARALLEL FUTURE TO CONQUER MOBIUS PRIME!
HE RECLAIMED ALL OF THE FREED ROBIANS TO WORK FOR HIM.
HIS ADVANCED SHADOWBOT ARMY MARCHED ON THE CAPITOL AND RECLAIMED ROBOTROPOLIS FOR THEIR MASTER!
THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS MANAGED TO DESTROY ROBOTNIK'S SATELLITE BASE BUT IT WAS ONLY A TEMPORARY SET-BACK...


SOON, DOCTOR IVO "EGGMAN" ROBOTNIK LAUNCHED HIS PLAN TO REVIVE CHAOS! HE SHATTERED THE MASTER EMERALD AND USED ITS SHARDS TO FEED THE WEAKENED GOD OF DESTRUCTION!
AS THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS INVESTIGATED THE CASE, THEY WERE INTRODUCED TO STATION SQUARE.
THE UNITED FEDERATION WOULD SLOWLY BE FORCED OUT INTO THE OPEN FROM THIS POINT ON.
THE SPIRIT TIKAL, WHO WAS TRAPPED WITH CHAOS, TRIED TO WARN KNUCKLES AND THE OUTSIDE WORLD OF THE IMPENDING DOOM AND TRIED TO PREVENT A REPEAT OF HISTORY!
ALTHOUGH THINGS GREW DIRE, THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS MANAGED TO DEFEAT CHAOS, DOCTOR EGGMAN, AND PREVENT TOTAL DISASTER!

THE JOURNEY CONTINUES IN THE SONIC ARCHIVES GRAPHIC NOVEL SERIES!

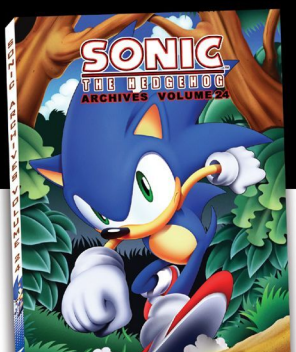
NEXT TIME, IN THE SONIC ARCHIVES...

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG ARCHIVES VOLUME 24

THE SONIC ADVENTURE

IT'S A TIME OF UPHEAVAL FOR SONIC AND HIS FRIENDS! MEANWHILE, KNUCKLES EMBARKS ON A STRANGE JOURNEY.

SONIC ARCHIVES VOLUME 24 collects SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #88-91.



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